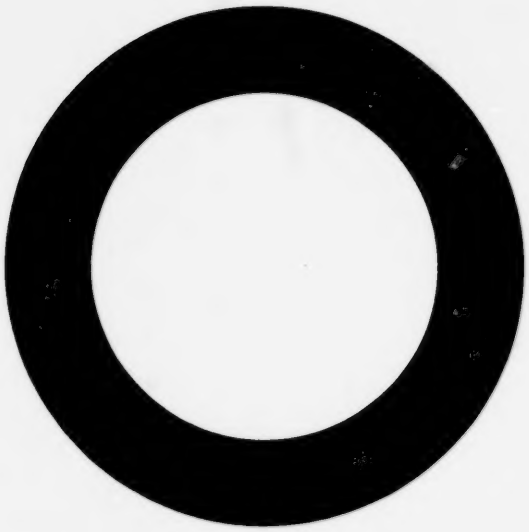

United Nations S/2009/438

Security Council

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Third report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1829 (2008) in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) every four months. The report covers the period from 1 June 2009 to 1 September 2009.

II. Major developments

A. Political developments

2. During the period under review, the political situation in the country was calm, with no incidents of political violence. In the spirit of the joint communiqué of 2 April, the major political parties continued interactions under the framework of the dialogue forums organized by the Political Parties Registration Commission, with the support of the United Nations.

3. A Joint Communiqué Adherence Committee, co-chaired by the Political Parties Registration Commission and UNIPSIL, was established on 29 April 2009. In addition to the All People's Congress (APC) and the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP), the membership of the Committee also includes the Sierra Leone police, the National Commission for Democracy and the Inter-Religious Council of Sierra Leone. The parties have shown keen interest in the work of the Committee, and their discussions have remained constructive and positive. In addition to contributing to the cessation of political violence, the joint communiqué has also provided a framework for developing biparty consensus on youth issues, trafficking in illicit drugs and the strengthening of the country's democratic institutions.

4. Efforts continued to be made to promote confidence not only among political parties but within the society as well. To that end, President Ernest Bai Koroma on 19 July swore in members of the Commission of Inquiry to investigate the allegations of rape and sexual violence reported during the 16 March 2009 attack on the SLPP offices in Freetown. An independent review panel to look into the acts of political violence and intolerance that occurred in March 2009 is yet to be constituted, however.

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5. The Commission of Inquiry, chaired by Justice Bankole Thompson, heard testimony from the alleged victims and witnesses. Financial and technical support for the work of the Commission was obtained from the Peacebuilding Fund, UNIPSIL, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Government of Sierra Leone. In a commendable spirit of political bipartisanship, members of the Commission were chosen by President Koroma from a list of nominees submitted by APC and SLPP.

6. Furthermore, several inter-party dialogues aimed at fostering political tolerance and non-violence were held in Freetown and in the provinces. The dialogues were organized by the Political Parties Registration Commission, with technical and financial support from UNIPSIL and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In addition to SLPP and APC, the meetings were attended by the People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC), the National Democratic Alliance and by civil society organizations. Special inter-party dialogues and retreats focusing on the youth wings of the political parties were organized in Freetown from 8 to 11 June, followed by similar events at the district level, with the participation of members of Artists for Peace, a local musical group.

7. PMDC held its national delegates conference in Kenema from 24 to 26 July and re-elected Charles Francis Margai as its national leader. In an encouraging development, the opening ceremony of the conference was attended by President Koroma and ranking members of his APC party, as well as by the National Chair of SLPP, John Benjamin, and other senior officials of SLPP. In their respective speeches, the President and Mr. Benjamin called for political tolerance and non-violence.

8. With the conclusion of the PMDC national delegates conference, the major parties have now held their respective conventions. While SLPP and PMDC are yet to choose their presidential candidates for the 2012 elections, APC has nominated President Koroma as the party's presidential candidate for the 2012 elections.

9. The Independent Media Commission on 8 July announced that the licences of the political party radio stations owned by APC and SLPP would be withdrawn. The operations of those radio stations were suspended on 14 March by Vice-President Sam Sumana in light of their respective roles in the incidents of political intolerance and violence in parts of the country. On 15 July SLPP filed an action in the High Court challenging the decision of the Independent Media Commission. The High Court is yet to render a ruling on the matter.

10. Meanwhile, on 23 July the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation Act 2009 was passed by Parliament. The bill would provide the legal basis for the transformation of the state-owned Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service into an independent national broadcaster. National and international stakeholders, including UNIPSIL, are concerned, however, that some of the provisions in the bill could undermine the independence of the broadcasting corporation. President Koroma is yet to assent to the bill and has provided assurances that concerns raised by stakeholders pertaining to the independence of the proposed corporation would be addressed.

B. Security situation

11. During the reporting period, the Sierra Leone security agencies took measures aimed at curbing the cultivation of marijuana plants, destroying a large number of cannabis farms and significant quantities of the drug. The lack of logistical support, however, is impeding efforts by the Sierra Leone police to quickly deal with the growing drug problem. Large-scale cultivation of cannabis plant not only threatens national security but also inhibits the expansion of domestic crop farming.

12. A memorandum of understanding on the roles and responsibilities of members of the Joint Maritime Committee has been developed to ensure better coordination of Government efforts to protect the country's coastline and marine resources. In that regard, the World Bank announced that it would provide the Government a $20 million grant for fisheries protection, of which $6 million dollars would be set aside for the Joint Maritime Committee. The Committee will utilize a portion of the funding to procure a ship to conduct patrols in the territorial waters of Sierra Leone.

13. The Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces, with assistance from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, has begun preparations to contribute troops to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). The ability of the Armed Forces to deploy in support of United Nations peacekeeping operations is a testimony to the successful security sector reform process in which the country's international partners have played a major role.

14. On 13 and 14 July, President Koroma paid an official visit to Guinea where he met the leader of Guinea, Captain Moussa Dadis Camara. The two Heads of State discussed the Yenga border dispute and issued a communiqué reiterating their commitment to the peaceful resolution of the matter. To that end they also agreed to reactivate the joint technical team established earlier to address the border dispute.

15. Consequently, on 31 July the Guinean members of the technical team arrived in Freetown and met their Sierra Leone counterparts. Their deliberations focused on the use of the Mona River as the boundary between the two countries and on the demilitarization of the Yenga area. The technical team has submitted reports through the respective Ministers for Foreign Affairs to the Heads of State of both countries. The Government of Sierra Leone remains hopeful that the dispute will be resolved through bilateral channels. UNIPSIL provided logistical support to the technical team during its visit to the Yenga border area.

C. Socio-economic situation

16. Until June, Sierra Leone had effectively weathered the effects of the ongoing financial crisis. However, recent data from the International Monetary Fund suggest that the country's resilience is weakening. Real growth in gross domestic product in 2009 is projected to be 4 per cent, a 1.5 percentage point decline from the previous year. The recent 25 per cent depreciation of the local currency against the major currencies has caused a massive rise in consumer prices.

17. At the same time, export earnings have been hit by the downturn in global commodity markets. The value of exports in 2009 is projected to be $180 million, about 27 per cent smaller than in 2008. The volume of diamonds and rutile exported

in the first six months of 2009 has declined in comparison with 2007. In addition, falling world prices for diamonds have resulted in an even sharper decline in revenue. The total value of diamond exports has fallen by 49 per cent, or around $70 million.

18. Foreign direct investment, including remittances from Sierra Leoneans abroad, is projected to fall by about 25 per cent in 2009 over the previous year's peak of $69 million. Given those worrying developments, Sierra Leone is likely to rely on additional donor financing to close budget deficits if the global crisis is prolonged.

19. On 27 July, President Koroma launched the first test phase of the Bumbuna hydroelectric project. The second and third phases of the test will entail transmission of electricity from the project to the Kingtom power station and to the national power authority station, both in Freetown, for onward distribution to consumers. Construction of the Bumbuna hydroelectric project began more than 25 years ago, and its test phase is a milestone for the Government, given that energy supply is one of the major pillars of President Koroma's Agenda for Change (the second poverty reduction strategy for Sierra Leone).

III. Advancing the peacebuilding agenda

A. Special session of the Peacebuilding Commission

20. The Governments of Sierra Leone and Canada co-chaired a Peacebuilding Commission high-level special session on Sierra Leone on 10 June 2009 in New York. The Commission endorsed the joint communiqué and underscored its importance as a model for conflict prevention and resolution in post-conflict countries. The Commission urged UNIPSIL to assist in its implementation by the Government, the political parties and all concerned national actors. During the session, the Government's Agenda for Change was welcomed as the core strategic document for the country until 2012. The contribution of the United Nations to the Agenda for Change, the Joint Vision, was considered by the Commission as an innovative approach to peacebuilding, integrating political, development and humanitarian objectives.

21. The session also expressed support for the Joint Vision's 21 programmes and encouraged members of the Peacebuilding Commission to provide resources for the multi-donor trust fund to ensure implementation of the projects. The implementation of the United Nations Joint Vision is costed at $345 million for the next four years, of which approximately $141 million has already been secured. The Commission resolved that its engagement with Sierra Leone would continue to be based on the principles of national ownership, mutual accountability and sustained partnership. It would support the implementation of the Agenda for Change and focus in particular on (a) promoting good governance and the rule of law; (b) combating trafficking in illicit drugs; and (c) addressing youth unemployment.

B. Agenda for Change of the Government

22. Implementation of the Agenda for Change is being supported by a renewed drive towards strengthening aid coordination and management between the

Government and international development partners. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development is restructuring in order to more effectively attract development assistance into the budget. My Executive Representative and UNDP are strongly supporting the aid coordination process.

23. A Consultative Group meeting to raise resources for Sierra Leone will be held in London on 18 and 19 November 2009. The conference will be co-hosted by President Koroma, the Minister for International Development of the United Kingdom and the World Bank Vice President for Africa. The Government will present its Agenda for Change, review the progress made in the key sectors of agriculture, transport and energy and highlight efforts made towards ensuring good governance. The United Nations Joint Vision, the World Bank and the Joint Country Assistance Strategy of the African Development Bank will form the basis for discussions at the meeting.

C. United Nations Joint Vision

24. The United Nations Joint Vision responds to four sets of overlapping requirements: (a) to support the Government's Agenda for Change; (b) to promote the core principles set out in the Paris Declaration; (c) to respond to the Secretary-General's decision on integration; and (d) to provide the framework for United Nations programming in the country until 2012. It situates the contribution of the United Nations within a much broader international effort to assist the Government of Sierra Leone to consolidate peace, stimulate economic growth, create decent employment opportunities, especially for the youth, fight organized crime, impede corruption and make progress towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

25. Following the launch of the Joint Vision in June 2009, the United Nations country team moved to develop detailed programmes and inter-agency agreements for common services and to establish the multi-donor trust fund. Those activities have been coordinated by the joint UNIPSIL and United Nations country team Strategic Planning Unit.

IV. Support to democratic institutions

26. The Political Parties Registration Commission successfully mediated an intra-party dispute between two factions of PMDC just before the convening of the Party's national delegates conference on 24 July 2009. The Commission is currently being restructured, with technical support from UNDP and UNIPSIL. The Commission's district code of conduct monitoring committees are also being revamped to promote peacebuilding in the districts and local communities. In addition to financial assistance from the Government of Sierra Leone, the Commission received support from the Peacebuilding Fund and the "election basket fund" supported by the United Kingdom Department for International Development, the European Union, Irish Aid, Norway, Japan and Denmark.

27. The National Electoral Commission continued to benefit from the "election basket fund" as well as from allocations provided by the Government of Sierra Leone, which has also made available vital infrastructural and capacity-building

assistance. During the reporting period, the National Electoral Commission conducted a local council by-election in the Dwarzak constituency in Freetown. Following the passage by Parliament of a Chieftaincy Bill, which clarifies the responsibility of the National Electoral Commission in the conduct of Chieftaincy elections, the Commission announced that elections would be held to fill about 40 paramount chieftaincy vacancies in November 2009.

28. The Independent Media Commission continues to assert itself in the regulation of the print and broadcast media in Sierra Leone. It has reassembled media monitors in the regions and communities and opened a branch office, with assistance from the Peacebuilding Fund, in Sierra Leone's second-largest city, Bo. It also adjudicated about 15 complaints brought against the media and recently rendered an important decision concluding that certain allegations made against the principal opposition party, SLPP, were unfounded. The Commission carried out a training programme for journalists in Bo and plans to conduct similar programmes elsewhere, including in Freetown. In addition to support from the United Kingdom Department for International Development, the Commission will receive financial assistance from the Peacebuilding Fund for the procurement of media monitoring equipment.

29. Parliament remained active during the reporting period and enacted new laws covering various aspects of national life. To enhance continued development of the capacity of Parliament, support is being provided through the Peacebuilding Fund to cover the organization of training programmes for the parliamentarians and to provide for their logistical and information technology needs.

30. Within the framework of the joint communiqué, the Peacebuilding Fund has also provided $909,606 for strengthening the capacity of the police in addressing political violence. To that end, UNIPSIL worked collaboratively with the United Nations Office for Project Services to procure equipment, vehicles and training materials for crowd-control personnel and professional investigators. Equipment for the Sierra Leone professional standards unit will be delivered shortly, and modalities for crowd control and professional standards training are being established.

V. Support to human rights and the rule of law

31. The Government has taken significant actions to address impunity, including through the restoration of military justice with the recent re-establishment of a court martial board of the Sierra Leone Armed Forces.

32. A legal aid programme has been established by the Sierra Leone Bar Association to provide assistance to vulnerable groups, and the construction of additional courthouses and residential facilities for judges is in progress. Prison conditions continue to improve, except in the areas of water, sanitation and health facilities. Renovation of the Mafanta Prison to relieve congestion at the overcrowded Pademba Road Prison is almost complete.

33. UNIPSIL also continued its engagement with civil society organizations, including by supporting training and capacity-building. Notwithstanding these efforts, it is recognized that more needs to be done to address harmful traditional practices in the society, especially violence against women.

A. The Sierra Leone National Human Rights Commission

34. With technical support from UNIPSIL, the National Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone continued to implement its statutory functions. The Commission has established regional offices in all of the country's three provinces. President Koroma, in an unprecedented move, organized an interactive forum with his Cabinet on 11 August to which he invited the Commissioners to discuss the Commission's 2008 annual report and its recommendations.

35. Notwithstanding its financial difficulties, the Government continues to support the work of the Commission, including by covering salaries and constructing a new office complex into which the Commission is expected to relocate by 2010. The sustainability of the Commission and its programmes remain a critical challenge, however. As a result, the United Nations Joint Vision has identified the Commission as a priority institution for support, and I appeal to international partners to support the National Human Rights Commission.

B. Recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

36. With support from the United Nations, the implementation of the reparations programme, as recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, has made significant progress. Thus far, the programme has registered 28,000 war victims and conducted symbolic reparations in 18 chiefdoms. A number of programmes have also commenced to provide fistula surgeries for survivors of sexual violence during the war and to make available microgrants for livelihood support activities.

37. However, with funding from the Peacebuilding Fund for those activities expected to run out by the end of 2009, the sustainability of the reparations programme will be jeopardized unless additional resources are mobilized. A five-year strategic action plan has been developed, which President Koroma is expected to launch simultaneously with the Victims Trust Fund in September. The United Nations Joint Vision has also identified reparations as one of its priority programmes, and I appeal to development partners to support the reparations programme.

VI. Special Court

38. On 17 July 2009, the Management Committee of the Special Court for Sierra Leone approved the updated completion strategy of its work, setting February 2011 as the expected completion date of its judicial activities. To date, the Special Court has completed all of its trials except the appeals from the judgement against leaders of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the Charles Taylor trial, which is being conducted at the seat of the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Judgement in the RUF appeal is expected by the end of October 2009. The Court has also signed sentence enforcement agreements with several States, which are at various stages of incorporating the agreements into their domestic legislation.

39. As part of the Court's legacy programme, it is building national capacity through secondment, comprehensive training programmes and targeted technical

assistance to local institutions in the country. The Court is also working with the Government of Sierra Leone to explore potential uses for the Court's 11.5-acre facility upon the completion of its core judicial activities in early 2011.

40. Significant funding will continue to be required to ensure completion of the Court's core judicial activities, the maintenance of the residual institution and the cost of sentence enforcement. I appeal for additional support to facilitate those vital remaining activities of the Court.

VII. Integration of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone and United Nations country team activities

41. As the first fully integrated mission led by the Department of Political Affairs, UNIPSIL's success or failures will contribute to determining the shape and functions of future peacebuilding missions. For that reason, my Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs has been keenly monitoring the establishment and progress of UNIPSIL and visited Freetown during the reporting period.

42. Under the leadership of my Executive Representative, who also serves as the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations country team and the UNDP Resident Representative, the United Nations system in Sierra Leone has developed a new approach to peacebuilding, with a fully integrated peacebuilding strategy, the United Nations Joint Vision. The main aim of that approach is to provide more focused and effective assistance to the Government and people of Sierra Leone. The approach is based on a high degree of programmatic integration of United Nations activities. In the Joint Vision, UNIPSIL and the United Nations country team have agreed to work together on five priority areas and to implement cooperatively 21 programmes, guided by a set of joint benchmarks. They have also put in place a system for joint programming and programme evaluation.

43. In order to support programmatic integration and ensure the most efficient use of resources provided by Member States, UNIPSIL and the United Nations country team have also attained a high degree of operational integration, through the establishment of common facilities and services such as joint regional field offices, a multi-donor trust fund, a joint strategic planning unit, a medical clinic, security services and a vehicle repair shop.

44. The level of programmatic and operational integration is complemented by efforts to achieve greater coherence and aid effectiveness of overall international assistance to Sierra Leone. My Executive Representative, together with the Representative of the World Bank, is working with the Government to establish an effective aid coordination architecture. He is also co-chairing regular meetings of development partners. Furthermore, UNIPSIL and the United Nations country team support the operational activities of Member States through the joint regional field offices and logistical support, including air transport for visiting delegations and assistance missions.

45. During the reporting period, the efforts of the Peacebuilding Commission's configuration for Sierra Leone and UNIPSIL have proven increasingly complementary and mutually reinforcing. The Peacebuilding Commission, with the

support of UNIPSIL, has contributed to the enhancement of aid efficiency and improved coherence within the United Nations system.

46. UNIPSIL is a much leaner and more cost-effective peacebuilding office in comparison with previous peacekeeping missions in Sierra Leone. The size of the office is limited to 73 staff, of which 32 are locally recruited. Also, the ratio of substantive units to administrative support units has been reversed, with about 75 per cent of the staff being assigned substantive tasks.

47. The staff of UNIPSIL is expert-oriented, with specialists working on issues such as trafficking in illicit drugs, combating corruption, human rights, police development, democratic institutions, independent public broadcasting, media development, decentralization and the constitutional review. UNIPSIL relies increasingly on national experts, with a total of 13 national professional posts. The blend of international specialists with national experts has proven productive and responsive to the country's priorities. About 75 per cent of all staff posts of UNIPSIL are now filled and it is expected that the occupancy rate will reach 90 per cent by October 2009.

48. In setting up UNIPSIL, efforts have been made to lay the ground for phasing out its activities and ensuring its seamless transition into the normal United Nations country team system. For that reason, UNIPSIL has a light footprint, has chosen its specialists jointly with United Nations organizations and will rely on United Nations organizations to carry out all operational activities. The high degree of programmatic and operational integration will facilitate a future exit strategy for UNIPSIL.

VIII. Critical peacebuilding challenges

A. Corruption

49. The Anti-Corruption Commission continued to make progress in tackling corruption. On 6 July, the Commission presented its 2008 annual report to President Koroma. The report highlights progress and challenges as well as recommendations for strengthening the Commission. Those include the creation of a fast track anti-corruption court with dedicated judges and prosecutors, the amendment of the Legal Practitioners Act to allow the Commission to employ would-be barristers to address the shortage of prosecutors, and a permanent head office. President Koroma has assured the Commission of the commitment of the Government to fight against corruption.

50. As part of its preventive strategy, the Commission worked with a number of Government agencies to review their internal procedures and systems in order to reduce the risk of corruption. In collaboration with Parliament, it began developing a code of conduct for parliamentarians. A similar initiative is under consideration for local government officials. On 3 June, the Commission arrested two officials of a Government-owned company for offences under the Anti-Corruption Act 2008, including the misappropriation of public funds. On 9 June, it secured the conviction in the High Court of a former Government Ombudsperson for various corrupt practices. More than one billion leones were collected in penalties by the Commission.

B. Illicit drugs

51. To strengthen the capacity of the Government of Sierra Leone in combating trafficking in illegal narcotics, UNIPSIL, in cooperation and coordination with the United Kingdom, the United States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), provided the Sierra Leone Joint Drug Interdiction Task Force with a two-month training regimen which consisted of investigative, interdictory and tactical techniques required to deal with organized crime and trafficking in illicit drugs. Further, with the assistance of UNDP, members of the Task Force have received vital equipment that will be critical for enforcement actions against drug trafficking. The United States Government will provide the Task Force with additional equipment.

C. Youth unemployment

52. Youth unemployment and underemployment still present significant challenges to the Government of Sierra Leone. To address the problem, the Government, the United Nations and other development partners are supporting ongoing youth employment initiatives in the following areas: skills training, microfinancing, entrepreneurship training, work for cash and food for work. Also under the Joint Vision, a specific programme with emphasis on creating employment for large numbers of youth has been developed. The Government is finalizing the establishment of a national youth commission, which will provide strategic direction and much-needed coordination of all youth employment activities among all the ministries.

IX. Observations

53. The steps taken towards the implementation of the 2 April joint communiqué have enabled the strengthening of the peace consolidation process in Sierra Leone. The joint communiqué has galvanized key sections of the country, particularly the political party youth groups, in their determination to arrest tendencies that detract from the democratic credentials that Sierra Leone has been trying to strengthen since the end of the war.

54. Additional efforts, however, are required by all national stakeholders to ensure that the present momentum is sustained. Crucial to the sustainability of the process is the steadfast support of Sierra Leone's international development partners. Internally, political intolerance and violence will have to be dealt with as a matter of priority, especially as political parties brace themselves for the 2012 elections.

55. High youth unemployment and trafficking in illicit drugs continue to pose considerable challenges to the consolidation of peace. Equally, the global economic situation has negatively affected Sierra Leone through the reduction of foreign aid, external investments and overseas remittances. Especially worrying is the fact that Sierra Leone continues to register extremely high infant and maternal mortality and poverty levels, which call for increased engagement by the international community to help reverse those negative trends.

56. Sierra Leone's achievements thus far in the area of democratization are in part a result of the strong support provided by international partners and the Government of Sierra Leone to the National Electoral Commission, the Political Parties Registration Commission, the Sierra Leone police, the judiciary, the National Human Rights Commission, the Anti-Corruption Commission and other important State institutions. I am grateful for the generous support provided by the country's development partners. As the peace consolidation process continues, I appeal for unrelenting assistance, including from the Government of Sierra Leone itself, to strengthen State institutions and keep reform efforts on track.

57. The completion of the much awaited constitutional reform process is long overdue. To expedite the process, I call on the Government to consider establishing, as soon as possible, a participatory consultation mechanism to enable wider input by civil society and other national stakeholders. UNIPSIL stands ready to provide technical support for the exercise, which, when completed, should make an important contribution to the peace consolidation process.

58. While I recognize that there is still much more work to be done, I commend the efforts being made by President Koroma and the country's political parties, including the major opposition party, the SLPP, in promoting political tolerance and stability.

59. UNIPSIL has continued to make steady progress in implementing its mandate to support the efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone to consolidate peace in the country and to ensure an integrated United Nations approach to peacebuilding. Taking into account the many complex challenges that remain, I would like to recommend to the Security Council that it extend the mandate of UNIPSIL for a period of one year, until 30 September 2010.

60. Finally, I wish to thank my Executive Representative, Michael von der Schulenburg, the staff of UNIPSIL, the United Nations agencies and programmes as well as the World Bank and the African Development Bank for their dedication in realizing the mandate of the mission.

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Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 1840 (2008), the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) until 15 October 2009, and requested me to report on its implementation semi-annually and not later than 45 days prior to its expiration. The present report covers major developments since my report of 6 March 2009 (S/2009/129) and the progress made in the implementation of the mandate of the Mission as set out in Security Council resolutions 1542 (2004), 1608 (2005), 1702 (2006), 1743 (2007), 1780 (2007) and 1840 (2008).

II. Political developments

2. During the reporting period, increased political cooperation permitted progress in a number of areas, including the holding of senatorial elections, the adoption of key legislation and the pursuit of an inclusive dialogue on a number of major issues facing the country, based on the work of a number of presidential commissions. This collaboration remained fragile, however, and subject to reversal, with a potential for renewed tensions and conflict among and within the governing institutions of Haiti, and a continued readiness on the part of influential forces within the country to inflame public tensions to further their own interests.

3. The first round of elections to fill 12 vacancies in the Senate was held on 19 April. While conditions were generally peaceful, a series of violent incidents led to the cancellation of the vote in the Centre Department and to the closure of voting centres in the Artibonite Department. The second round of elections in the nine departments other than the Centre Department was held on 21 June, without significant disruptions. The rerun of the first round of elections for a Senate seat in the Centre Department is expected to be held once the authorities take action on the basis of the investigation conducted by the Provisional Electoral Council.

4. The election results were officially published on 24 July. The representatives of Lespwa, which served as the electoral platform of President René Préval in 2006, were successful in 6 out of 11 races, while a single seat was won by representatives of the Fusion, KONBA, LAAA and OPL parties respectively and a further seat was won by a candidate who ran as an independent. The seating of these 11 Senators

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could pave the way for a more effective legislature, whose functioning has been hampered by difficulties in convening a quorum. In order for the successful candidates to assume their functions, however, the Constitution requires that they be validated by their peers. A number of sitting Senators have threatened not to validate the elected candidates until allegations of electoral tampering have been clarified, while others have threatened to block the validation process on the grounds that the legitimacy of the elections was undermined by the exclusion of the Fanmi Lavalas party (see S/2009/129, para. 13).

5. To date, limited progress has been made towards the implementation of the joint legislative agenda agreed upon by representatives of the Government and Parliament in December 2008. Of the 31 laws and 10 conventions on the agenda, nine laws have been adopted and nine conventions ratified by Parliament. Significant achievements over the reporting period include the adoption, on 2 June, of the 2008-2009 budget law, although this occurred eight months into the fiscal year, and only after prolonged, and at times acrimonious, exchanges between the Government and Parliament. The Government presented the 2009-2010 draft budget law to the Parliament at the end of June, in accordance with the timeline foreseen by the Constitution. The adoption of the law on public procurement by Parliament on 10 June fulfilled a critical requirement for forgiveness of a significant part of Haiti's external debt. Parliament also adopted on 11 May an amendment to the electoral law providing for an extension of the mandate allowing the *collectivités territoriales* to complete their constitutional term of four years by November 2010. Other pending items on the legislative agenda include regulations regarding the functioning and financing of political parties, and a draft Customs code, both of which have been adopted by the Chamber of Deputies.

6. The development of legislation regarding the minimum wage, which also featured on the legislative agenda, generated considerable political debate during the reporting period. In the absence of specific proposals from the Government, Parliamentarians developed legislation that would raise the minimum daily wage to G200 (approximately $5), almost three times the current level (G70). This proposal was criticized by industrialists and various experts on the grounds that such an abrupt increase could significantly undermine Haiti's competitiveness, at a time when the country is seeking to attract investors. Exercising his Constitutional prerogative, President Préval conveyed these objections in a letter to Parliament, in which he also suggested specific amendments. On 18 August, following several weeks of intense public debate and demonstrations in Port-au-Prince by students and workers, the Chamber of Deputies voted in favour of an increase of the minimum wage to G125 per day, as suggested by the President.

7. Meanwhile, one of the four Commissions established earlier in 2009 by President Préval to consider issues of national importance (see S/2009/129, para. 9), the Commission on Constitutional Reform, published its report on 10 July. The Commission proposes reforms in a number of areas, including provisions concerning the electoral cycle, dual citizenship, the security architecture and local authorities. The other three commissions — on justice reform, competitiveness and information technology — were expected to submit their reports before the end of 2009 or at the beginning of 2010. The Commission on Public Security, which was established in 2008, issued its findings on 6 August, as discussed in greater detail below (see para. 37).

8. The Haitian leadership has continued to work closely with the international community to develop a response to the country's security and development needs. On 14 April, I attended a major conference hosted by the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, D.C., co-chaired by the Prime Minister, Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis. The Conference brought together high-level representatives of Haiti's bilateral partners and resulted in pledges of $350 million in new assistance for the country over a two-year period, including $40 million in direct budgetary support. At the conference, the Government of Haiti presented its two-year Plan for Reconstruction and Economic Recovery, with a total budget amounting to $1.4 billion, which focused on job creation and economic growth, together with the challenges associated with the provision of electricity, private sector development, disaster risk management, agriculture and social services.

9. The potential for tensions along the border with the Dominican Republic was highlighted by popular expressions of anger following two widely publicized murders in the Dominican capital, which claimed the lives, respectively, of a Dominican citizen and a Haitian immigrant. The leaders of the two countries worked together to promote calm, and stressed in public statements that the attacks reflected specific criminal acts between individuals. Nonetheless, the public response to the incident, as well as to disputes concerning licensing arrangements for transport companies operating between the two countries, served to highlight the continued sensitivity of cross-border issues. In this context, it is encouraging that the Haitian authorities have declared their intention to make rapid progress towards the establishment of the Haiti-Dominican Republic Joint Commission, which could help to address such misunderstandings and pre-empt escalation.

10. Haiti received a number of high-level visits during the reporting period, including the visit by the Security Council from 11 to 14 March (see S/2009/175) and the visit of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group of the Economic and Social Council from 4 to 7 May (see E/2009/105). I visited Haiti on 9 and 10 March, accompanied by the former President of the United States of America, William J. Clinton, whom I subsequently appointed as United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti, and who returned to the country in his new capacity from 6 to 8 July. As Special Envoy, President Clinton will assist the Government of Haiti and its people in their efforts to create new jobs, improve the delivery of basic services and infrastructure, strengthen disaster recovery and preparedness, attract private sector investment and garner greater international support. I am deeply grateful to President Clinton for his readiness to assume this function, which will be of great value in maintaining critically needed international engagement in Haiti.

Elections

11. The senatorial elections on 19 April and 21 June represented the first elections held since the 2006 electoral cycle, and were the first to be organized by the new Provisional Electoral Council, with technical, logistical and security support from MINUSTAH. The organization of the electoral process represented a significant challenge, owing to the new provisions and requirements of the 2008 Electoral Law, in particular the 78 per cent increase in the number of voting centres to 1,463 in 2009, compared with 821 in previous elections. National and international observers generally expressed satisfaction with the technical aspects of the process. A review of the elections of 19 April, conducted jointly by the Haitian National Police and

MINUSTAH after the fact, helped to develop an enhanced security strategy for the second round.

12. While electoral violence remained comparatively low, the level of voter turnout (11.3 per cent and 10.85 per cent countrywide, respectively, during the electoral rounds of 19 April and 21 June) raised concerns about the degree of public engagement in the political process. The reversal of the results in the South Department and allegations of vote tampering in the Petite Rivière region of the Artibonite Department also prompted controversy within the Provisional Electoral Council. Allegations of involvement in electoral incidents by certain candidates and sitting members of Parliament could further undermine voter confidence. Appropriate follow-up to the Electoral Council's investigation into these events would make a critical difference in fostering public confidence in the political process.

13. A number of electoral exercises lie ahead and will demand significant support from the Mission and from bilateral partners. These include the rerun for the elections in the Centre Department and elections for all members of the Chamber of Deputies and for one third of the Senate, whose terms are constitutionally due to expire on 12 January 2010 but can be extended until 11 May 2010 under the current electoral law. At present, it remains unclear whether those elections will be held before the end of 2009; some are proposing that they be held early in 2010. The Constitution establishes that the next presidential and local elections should be held on 28 November 2010.

III. Institutional support and strengthening of the State

14. During the reporting period, MINUSTAH continued to support efforts by the Haitian authorities to strengthen national and local institutional capacity, which falls well short of the level required.

15. With technical assistance from MINUSTAH, the Government has prepared an integrated border management plan and a draft Haitian Customs code, which is now under consideration by Parliament, as noted above. Drawing on bilateral funding as well as technical support from MINUSTAH, the Government has completed construction of expanded border facilities at Ouanaminthe and Malpasse, while work on the Belladère facility is nearing completion. The upgrading of the Customs data system (including the computerization of Customs operations), the physical improvement of the border crossing points and the intensification of patrols by security forces have together contributed to a 10 per cent increase in Customs revenue during the first six months of 2009, compared to the corresponding period in 2008, bringing Customs revenues to a monthly average of G800 million ($19 million).

16. As part of its mandated efforts to help build Haitian institutional capacity at all levels, including within key ministries, the Mission is providing technical assistance to the Ministry of the Interior and Local Government. Discussions are ongoing with the Prime Minister to provide similar support to other important ministries to help to meet urgent needs. This would also serve as a complement to bilateral capacity-building initiatives and to the efforts of the United Nations country team.

17. MINUSTAH, working together with the United Nations country team and Haiti's bilateral partners, continued to provide institutional support to the Parliament, which adopted several measures during the reporting period aimed at enhancing its performance. These included the appointment, on 9 July, of a Secretary-General of the Chamber of Deputies, who is expected to coordinate administrative and personnel matters and to provide technical assistance to the President of the Chamber, while maintaining communication with his counterpart at the Senate. Both Secretaries-General are expected to serve as focal points for the international community on institutional support issues.

18. Administrative capacity at the local level remains extremely limited. Drawing on quick-impact project funding, during the reporting period the Mission supported the training of a municipal accountant for each of the country's 140 municipalities between May and July. Meanwhile, as at 19 August, 128 quick-impact projects have been launched to provide basic public services, such as potable water cisterns, solar-powered street lighting, and school benches, to construct or rehabilitate public infrastructure and to provide income-generating activities, such as fruit and vegetable production, livestock breeding and horticulture.

IV. Security situation

19. The security environment in the country remained generally calm, albeit extremely fragile, during the reporting period. Potential threats to stability include the risk of resumed activity by gangs, criminals and other armed groups, corruption and violence associated with illegal trafficking, as well as large-scale civil unrest.

20. At a time of mounting frustration over the difficult conditions of daily life, demonstrations have shown a tendency to increase in number and intensity around the country and have highlighted the potential for groups with disparate agendas to form opportunistic alliances in order to advance their particular interests. This was exemplified by the demonstrations that began in Port-au-Prince in June 2009, where students who had taken to the streets to express various academic grievances were subsequently joined by protestors in favour of the proposed increase in the minimum wage and also appear to have been infiltrated by external, violent elements. All of these threats may be exploited by those who are pursuing political objectives, including in the context of forthcoming electoral processes, or by spoilers who seek to undermine the stabilization process in order to protect personal interests.

21. As noted below, although the capacity of the National Police is gradually improving, it still lacks the force levels, training, equipment and managerial capacity necessary to respond effectively to these threats without external assistance. Consequently, the MINUSTAH security components continue to play an indispensable role in maintaining a secure and stable environment.

22. During the reporting period, MINUSTAH, acting in support of the Haitian authorities, undertook a series of operations in Cité Soleil and in Martissant, which resulted in the arrest of a number of gang leaders and helped to maintain an atmosphere of security in both areas. Focused operations by the National Police and MINUSTAH forces also contributed to a decline in reported kidnappings from an average of approximately 30 per month in the first half of 2008 to fewer than 8 per month in the first half of 2009.

23. Meanwhile, MINUSTAH has continued to support the Government's efforts in the area of border management through maritime, air and land patrols. The Mission's maritime operations have facilitated the seizure of drugs by the National Police, including the interception of a shipment of some 432 kg of marijuana in the South Department on 10 June.

24. The senatorial elections represented a further major undertaking for the Mission's military and police components, who worked with the National Police to provide security to voting centres throughout the country and to the tabulation centre in Port-au-Prince, and to safeguard the delivery and recovery of sensitive and non-sensitive electoral material. Beyond these large-scale efforts, the Mission's security components played a critical role in the maintenance of stability through the provision of back-up to the National Police in responding to civil disorder or other ad hoc threats, and through regular patrolling throughout the country, including in remote areas where the National Police has a limited presence.

Reconfiguration of MINUSTAH forces

25. The role of the MINUSTAH police and military components will need to adapt as the threats facing Haiti evolve, and as the country develops its own security capacity. Accordingly, the Mission has launched a department-by-department assessment of Haiti's stability and the deployment of Haitian security forces, in order to elaborate, together with military and police experts from United Nations Headquarters, a strategy for the progressive reconfiguration of the Mission's security components.

26. The Mission's assessment clearly confirms that, in order to avoid any major setbacks or reversals, the maintenance of a substantial international military and police presence on the ground, at a level similar to that currently deployed, remains essential. At the same time, there need to adjust certain aspects of its force configuration to better meet current requirements on the ground. In particular, it is increasingly unlikely that the Mission will need to undertake large-scale security operations, along the lines of those that were conducted in Cité Soleil early in 2007. It would therefore be desirable to enhance the Mission's operational ability to deploy rapidly and to monitor remote locations, including border areas and the country's coastline. Accordingly, it is envisaged that up to one quarter of the Mission's armoured personnel carrier capability could be replaced with lighter patrol vehicles, an adjustment that would in turn permit the reduction of some 120 troops within the military component, down to a total figure of 6,940.

27. At the same time, the ongoing review of the MINUSTAH force configuration has highlighted the need to further strengthen the Mission's capacity to support the Haitian authorities in their crowd-control efforts. It is therefore recommended that each of the Mission's nine formed police units, which currently range in size from 85 to 140, be brought up to the standard strength of 140 personnel. This adjustment would correspond to a total increase of 120 additional officers and would bring the MINUSTAH police component to 2,211. It would bring the Mission into compliance with United Nations doctrine, and would enhance the flexibility and effectiveness of the formed police units by enabling each one to operate with four tactical sub-units of 30 officers, plus 20 support and command staff.

Reduction of community violence

28. During the reporting period, MINUSTAH continued to implement a programme of community violence reduction, providing advice and assistance to the National Disarmament, Dismantlement and Reinsertion Commission and to local administrations, with a particular focus on 12 priority violence-affected areas identified jointly with the Haitian authorities.

29. Since my last report, a total of 43 projects have been completed, while 38 additional projects were identified in collaboration with community groups in the 12 priority areas. Six of these additional projects have been completed, and the remainder are ongoing. Once completed, the latest group of projects will have generated one month of employment for 13,704 workers, including 4,955 women, and will have created professional and educational training opportunities for 1,156 youth at risk, prison inmates and children affected by armed violence, in addition to helping to provide medical and social support to 1,500 street children. These projects are accompanied by social outreach activities, involving over 60,000 participants, aimed at fostering a culture of peace in all 12 areas.

30. Meanwhile, MINUSTAH and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued to assist the Ministry of Justice in the ongoing review of legislation on firearms and in upgrading the National Police weapon registry system. As at 16 July, a total of 4,520 weapon licences had been issued to begin the replacement of the 6,100 less secure versions that had been issued from 2004 to 2006. A further 3,183 licences had been issued to begin the replacement of registrations issued prior to 2004 for some 25,000 weapons that had expired.

V. Reform of rule-of-law structures

31. Further progress was made in enhancing the capacity of the police, justice and corrections systems in accordance with national reform plans, drawing on close collaboration between the Haitian authorities, MINUSTAH, the United Nations country team and bilateral partners. Significant additional efforts are required, however, to enable Haiti to attain the minimum level of institutional capability required in each of these areas. Major elements of sustainability include enhanced inspection, oversight and accountability mechanisms, and continued action to curb corruption, as well as adjustment of structures within key Ministries and increased cooperation among Government institutions at the national and regional levels.

Police reform and development

32. MINUSTAH continues to work with the Haitian National Police to enhance its professionalism, develop institutional capacity and facilitate the establishment of necessary infrastructure. As at 18 August, the National Police numbered some 9,715 officers. This included a group of 468 new officers, 121 of whom are women, who graduated on that day as members of the twenty-first promotion. Meanwhile, some 1,500 candidates for the twenty-second promotion are currently awaiting medical examinations, with the objective of beginning their training within the coming months. Beyond basic police training, 115 National Police candidates, six of whom are women, completed required training for inspector-level positions and graduated on 18 August. In addition, 67 National Police officers at different levels are receiving advanced training through bilateral scholarships.

33. Certification and vetting activities continue to be conducted jointly by the Mission (United Nations police) and the National Police throughout the country. At the time of reporting, investigation files have been opened to verify the professionalism and integrity of 6,557 National Police officers; of this figure, a total of 2,154 completed files have been delivered to the Inspector General, and are awaiting action, pending finalization by the Haitian authorities of the internal arrangements by which they should be processed.

34. Together with bilateral partners, MINUSTAH is continuing to support nationally-led efforts to enhance the institutional capacity and infrastructure of the National Police. These include the elaboration of a comprehensive approach to border security, combining operational and training strategies, identification of necessary equipment and logistical resources, and development of necessary infrastructure, such as a new maritime base in the South Department. Efforts are also under way to strengthen the professionalism and operational capacity of the judicial police, which plays a central role in investigating criminal activity. Meanwhile, bilateral funding is required to permit resumption of the expansion of the INTERPOL and Central Fingerprint Offices, which was scheduled for completion in June, but has been suspended for lack of resources. Continuing bilateral support for the enhancement of the National Police's management and administration capacity will be critical for the sustainability of the entire police reform process.

35. During the reporting period, bilateral assistance supported the acquisition of 32 new vehicles, the renovation or expansion of 20 National Police facilities, and construction of a further 25 facilities, including expansion of the Police School which, when completed, will permit basic training for two promotions simultaneously. Using national funding, the National Police acquired 34 additional vehicles and renovated 20 police stations.

36. Despite the important contribution of bilateral donors to National Police development, the funds available for projects earmarked for implementation during the reporting period remain insufficient. The continued, generous assistance of the international community is critical to enable the National Police to adhere to the timelines envisaged in its development plans.

37. The Presidential Commission on Public Security, in its report issued on 6 August 2009, recommends that, in addition to ongoing enhancement of police capacity, Haiti should re-establish an additional force with a military status. This body, with a suggested composition of 4,000 to 5,000 members, would assume a variety of tasks, several of which are currently being discharged by MINUSTAH or by the National Police, and could incorporate certain elements of the National Police. Its responsibilities would include the maintenance of security along Haiti's borders and in rural areas, protecting the population against natural disasters, fighting illicit trafficking, support to the police in cases of civil unrest and protection of the environment. The political, practical and financial dimensions of these recommendations are expected to give rise to extended political and public debate.

Judicial system

38. The vetting of the nominees for the Superior Council of the Judiciary, which will play a central role in oversight of the justice system, has now been completed.

However, the results have not yet been made public, while the President of the Cour de Cassation, who would also serve as ex officio Chairperson of the Council, has yet to be appointed.

39. Pending the establishment of the Council, the Ministry of Justice has continued to strengthen its own judicial inspection unit, with the establishment of ad hoc commissions to review cases of serious misconduct on the part of judges. So far, four prosecutors have been dismissed and three judges and one registrar suspended. However, the bill on the reorganization of the Ministry of Justice, which would provide for the establishment of new planning and judicial inspection units, has yet to be adopted by the Parliament.

40. The inauguration of the Magistrates School on 12 March 2009 represented a significant step forward and the recruitment for a first class of magistrates was launched in June. The beginning of their formal training will mark the launch of an urgently needed, systematic process to appoint and prepare personnel for important judicial functions. Meanwhile, the facilities at the School were used to train 60 justices of the peace, including five women. This brings the total number of judges with formal training to 135, out of a total of 470 judges nationwide. A training programme for prosecutors is scheduled to begin shortly.

41. Since my last report, the Mission has continued to support a number of measures to strengthen the functioning of the court system, including improved caseload, in addition to giving technical assistance to the judicial actors of the "penal chain" so as to improve coordination. Together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, MINUSTAH explored with the Haitian authorities ways to strengthen measures against corruption, organized crime and illicit trafficking. There has, however, been no progress towards the establishment of specialized chambers, which were envisaged as an important element in combating impunity.

42. The Working Group on the Reform of Justice, one of the Presidential Commissions (see para. 7), provided 13 short-term recommendations to President Préval on immediate measures to advance the judicial reform process on 31 March. Four sub-groups have been formed on criminal, civil and administrative law, and on the framework for judicial reform. Legislative reform has also received increased attention with the establishment of a Working Group on the Modernization of the Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes, which is headed by the former Minister of Justice in his capacity as Special Adviser to the President. This marks a significant step towards a long-needed review of existing Haitian criminal legislation.

43. An additional legal aid office was opened in Gonaïves on 3 August, bringing the total number of such legal aid offices countrywide to 10. Measures are being taken to identify means of continuing the funding of the existing offices and to open eight additional offices in the remaining jurisdictions of the country.

Corrections system

44. During the reporting period, limited progress was made in the implementation of the 2007-2012 strategic plan of the National Prison Administration, which has four areas of focus, namely, improvement of infrastructure, procurement of necessary equipment, training of personnel and enhanced treatment of detainees. MINUSTAH continued to work to promote security and meet the urgent needs of detainees, while providing technical support for longer-term planning.

45. In keeping with the trend identified in earlier reports, the situation in prisons continued to deteriorate as overcrowding increased still further. As at 20 August, 8,790 inmates (481 female) were held in 17 prisons, with only 4,884 m^2 of living space. In the National Penitentiary in Port-au-Prince, 4,177 detainees occupied 1,995 m^2 of living space, less than half a square metre per prisoner, and far below the international norm of 2.5 m^2 per prisoner, which reflects a basic minimum in terms of human rights and safety.

46. In a positive development, construction of a new prison at Croix des Bouquets (near Port-au-Prince) began in May, drawing on bilateral funding. The prison will accommodate 750 inmates once completed. Meanwhile, the bilaterally funded rehabilitation of a part of the prison in Cap-Haïtien will increase bed space in that facility by 150 and provide a kitchen, an infirmary and a sanitation bloc. Work on the administration building of that facility has been halted since November 2008 for lack of funding by the Government of Haiti. Similarly, rehabilitation work on the Hinche and Carrefour prisons funded by the Government of Haiti, which had begun in February 2008, was halted in December because of funding problems. The rehabilitation of the Port-de-Paix and Saint-Marc prisons, both of which are managed by UNDP, began in June 2009 and is expected to increase bed space in the two facilities.

47. More than 76 per cent of detainees nationwide continue to be held in pretrial detention, as are more than 86.47 per cent of detainees in the national penitentiary. The second National Commission on Prolonged Pretrial Detention has, since its establishment in December 2008, recommended the implementation of some immediate measures, provided guidelines to presiding judges and prosecutors and initiated, with MINUSTAH support, an inventory of detainees so as to review prolonged pretrial detention cases countrywide. A pilot project identifying the blockages to case files was executed in April and presented to the Ministry of Justice for follow-up. No further action has been taken to date, however.

48. Although it was planned that an additional 270 correction officers would be trained in 2009, the Government has yet to select recruits for training. Meanwhile, 146 prison managers were trained in emergency planning, code of conduct and performance evaluation.

VI. Human rights

49. Little change was seen in the overall human rights situation during the reporting period, the most acute problem continuing to be the lack of progress in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. Widespread poverty and unemployment, combined with a lack of access to acceptable and affordable food, housing, education and health care and the ongoing deterioration in the environment pose a threat to individual rights and to national stability.

50. In response, MINUSTAH has sought to enhance its efforts to protect and promote economic, social and cultural rights, and to respond to growing interest by civil society in public policy. With assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Mission is working to develop related training that would help Haitian citizens to contribute constructively to the implementation of such policy instruments as the National Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Document, ministerial work plans, and municipal budgets.

51. The country continues to enjoy a historically high level of political commitment to the protection of civil and political rights. Nonetheless, during the reporting period, violations of those rights resulted from the ongoing weakness of rule-of-law institutions and the persistence of impunity. Despite some improvements in the capacity of the National Police, the Mission has received reports of ill-treatment, arbitrary and illegal detention and abuse of authority, while prolonged pretrial detention, as described above, infringes the rights of Haitians to a fair trial. The electoral incidents that occurred on 19 April also impinged upon some citizens' right to a free and fair electoral process.

52. The Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti, Michel Forst, visited Haiti from 27 April to 9 May to finalize his first report (A/HRC/11/5), which was submitted to the Human Rights Council in June 2009. Following a country visit from 1 to 10 June, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, Gulnara Shahinian, called for increased attention to the issue of children in domestic service. Her report on the visit will be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twelfth session.

Gender

53. During the reporting period, the Mission continued its efforts to support women's participation in the political process. MINUSTAH conducted training sessions on leadership and women's political participation for 44 leaders, including three men and five of the seven women who were competing for seats in the Senate. Sensitization sessions on voter education were also carried out for 360 representatives of women's and civil society organizations, including 288 women and 72 men in Cap-Haïtien, les Cayes, Gonaïves, Jérémie, Jacmel, Port-de-Paix, Fort-Liberté and Miragoâne through the Mission-supported multimedia centres. However, in view of the fact that none of the women competing for office was elected, female representation in the Senate has decreased by 50 per cent following the departure of two outgoing women Senators.

54. Efforts to tackle sexual violence continued to suffer from weaknesses in the rule-of-law system. Sensitization sessions on violence against women were organized for 242 officers of the National Police, including 39 female officers. MINUSTAH continued to support the implementation of the National Plan of Action to combat violence against women, and implemented a country-wide sensitization programme for representatives of civil society organizations, including 148 women and 62 men.

Child protection

55. During the period under review, children continued to suffer from criminal acts. Minors were reported to be the victims in 84 rape cases, while internal and cross-border child trafficking for the purpose of sexual or economic exploitation and inter-country adoption also remained a matter of concern. Seven minors, including four girls, were reportedly kidnapped over the period from March to August 2009.

56. The Mission sought to safeguard the rights of children within the justice system. There were 332 minors, 12 per cent of them girls, in detention in July, 284 of whom had not yet been tried. The Mission continued its efforts to ensure that their cases are heard by appropriately prepared judges, and that, where possible, they are immediately released after trial, while UNICEF provides free legal

assistance. MINUSTAH and UNICEF also continued their work to support the National Police Child Protection Brigade through joint training programmes for 70 officers during the reporting period, and through the conduct of an assessment of the needs of the Brigade in all departments.

HIV/AIDS

57. Since my last report the Mission has provided training on issues related to HIV/AIDS for 4,703 Mission personnel and 1,369 members of the National Police, as well as for 641 Haitian community leaders and representatives of civil society. In addition, the Mission has contributed to HIV training for penitentiary health personnel and immigration and Customs officials and, in cooperation with the Haitian Coalition of Women on AIDS, to the holding of a seminar on Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission.

VII. Humanitarian, recovery and development activities

Socio-economic situation

58. One year after Haiti suffered the devastating impact of a series of hurricanes, the grave socio-economic situation continues to pose a direct threat to the country's stability. Daily living conditions for the majority of the Haitian people continue to be characterized by hardship and privation. Subsidies that had been introduced to counter rising food and fuel prices after the riots in April 2008 are now being phased out, and the national authorities indicate that food insecurity is currently affecting 1.9 million Haitians. Social safety nets remain virtually non-existent. Basic social services such as education are almost entirely run by non-State actors and the private sector, while the country also implements a cost-recovery policy for basic health services.

59. While Haiti's overall socio-economic situation remains very fragile, there were some favourable developments over the reporting period. Annual inflation, which had doubled from 7.9 per cent at the end of September 2007 to 15.8 per cent in June 2008, fell to minus 0.04 per cent in May 2009, while the Haitian gourde remained relatively stable. The economic growth rate, which had reached 3.4 per cent in 2007 before declining to 1.2 per cent in 2008, is forecast to rise to approximately 2 per cent during 2009 and 2010. This forecasted growth would however barely keep pace with the projected population growth rate of approximately 2.4 per cent.

60. After the cancellation, on 30 June, of Haiti's $1.2 billion multilateral debt by the international financial institutions, the Paris Club countries cancelled the country's entire bilateral debt of over $214.73 million which was owed to Club member countries. Multilateral debt cancellation is expected to release approximately $40 million annually for the investment budget until 2015, which should be spent on poverty reduction measures.

61. There is an urgent need to support the Haitian authorities in the implementation of targeted social and economic agendas aimed at addressing the extreme vulnerability of the country and its people and to place Haiti firmly on the path to recovery and sustainable development. The United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti is already playing a critical role in mobilizing public and private

investment, while fostering the commitment of State institutions and national actors to work together to bring about a tangible improvement in the lives of the Haitian people. On 9 August, he announced that he would lead an international trade mission of private investors to Haiti in October. Meanwhile, a number of major international investors and philanthropic organizations are considering investments in various key sectors.

Humanitarian and development assistance

62. As demonstrated in 2008, Haiti is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters, and severe deforestation heightens the risk of flooding and mudslides during periods of heavy rains. This vulnerability, compounded by reduced agricultural capacity, high unemployment and extremely low investment, puts much of the population at risk, particularly during the hurricane season (June to November).

63. The Government of Haiti has presented a national preparedness strategy for response to possible disasters during the hurricane season, while capacity-building for the country's civil protection directorate has continued, with support from UNDP, the World Bank and the European Commission. The humanitarian community has updated its contingency planning, and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs continues to facilitate coordination at the national and departmental levels. Operational arrangements have also been established for joint emergency response activities by MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team, building on the collaboration that played a critical role in permitting a swift response to the crisis of 2008.

64. During the reporting period, the World Food Programme (WFP) pre-positioned food, including high-energy biscuits, in strategically located warehouses. The World Health Organization (WHO) distributed medical supplies and other equipment to strengthen the response capacity of the Ministry of Health. UNICEF screened and treated children for malnutrition, supported education in disaster-affected areas, and contributed to the provision of safe drinking water and to the establishment of a new hospital in Gonaïves. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) assisted the Direction de la Protection Civile in identifying and rehabilitating structures to be used as temporary shelters. Since my last report, ongoing recovery programmes have already created about 35,000 short-term jobs nationwide. However, additional funding is required for recovery and rehabilitation efforts by UNDP, IOM, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and WFP, which can create jobs and mitigate the risk of future disasters.

65. Upon the invitation of the Government of Haiti, Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute and my Special Adviser on the Millennium Development Goals, visited Haiti from 14 to 17 July to review the development priorities of the country and explore ways to advance their implementation.

VIII. Personnel conduct and discipline

66. MINUSTAH continued to implement my zero tolerance policy with regard to sexual exploitation and abuse. The Mission provided training on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse to 1,112 personnel, including 593 military, 186 police and 333 civilians. As part of the ongoing internal campaign against transactional sex, cards outlining the Organization's policy were produced in every Mission

language and issued to all personnel. One MINUSTAH police officer was repatriated on grounds of sexual misconduct.

IX. Consolidation plan

67. While there have been some advances over the past 12 months, the consolidation plan and associated progress indicators that were proposed a year ago remain valid as a means for the Security Council to evaluate the consolidation of stability in Haiti. However, some adjustments are warranted by specific developments in each of the five broad benchmark areas, as described below. This information is summarized in annex I, which has been reorganized to facilitate review by the Security Council by aligning projected advances within the first four benchmark areas of the consolidation plan with the likely time frame for consideration of extensions of the MINUSTAH mandate, based on practice to date. The time frame for indicators in the fifth benchmark, social and economic development, is less precise, reflecting the fact that progress in this area moves at a more incremental pace than in the other four areas.

68. In the area of political dialogue and elections, a number of indicators of progress have been met. With the installation of the Government of Prime Minister Pierre-Louis, followed by the completion of elections to replenish the Senate, political processes can once more benefit from a solid institutional foundation. Meanwhile, the establishment by President Préval of a series of commissions on issues of national interest has helped to launch an inclusive dialogue on the country's future, with participation by political leaders, members of the private sector, academics and representatives of civil society. This process can help to identify broadly supported institutional adjustments that could favour longer-term stability. Continued outreach by the Haitian authorities will be critical to sustain this debate, while civil society has a responsibility to actively participate, and to ensure the legitimacy and sustainability of the solutions that emerge.

69. The consolidation of Haiti's political stability also demands continued respect for the principle of periodic elections. It is widely acknowledged that the current electoral calendar imposes a major financial and political burden upon the country and its bilateral partners, and several specific amendments in this regard have been outlined by the Commission on Constitutional Reform. The experience of the past five years has highlighted the fact that the timing of electoral exercises may need at times to be adjusted, bearing in mind practical constraints. Nevertheless, it is essential that Haiti's leadership continue to work with the international community to ensure the timely organization of legislative, local and presidential elections, and that the electorate takes full advantage of a franchise that was won by previous generations through determination, courage and sacrifice.

70. With regard to the extension of State authority, significant progress has been made towards the clarification and implementation of a border management strategy, while incremental advances have been made in the development of the State's institutional capacity in general, drawing on bilateral and multilateral initiatives. However, considerable additional efforts are required to enable the State to effectively collect and disburse funds for the benefit of the population. The prospects for substantial and lasting improvements in institutional capacity would be greatly enhanced through adoption by the Government of an overall blueprint for

State reform, drawing as appropriate upon already existing proposals. Likewise, agreement upon a framework for decentralization would favour the strengthening of local governance capacity. It is hoped that the proposals outlined by the Commission on Constitutional Reform will help to pave the way for the emergence of a consensus in this regard. Continued bilateral and multilateral support for efforts to strengthen the legislative and oversight capacity of Parliament will also continue to represent a critical contribution to Haiti's long-term stability.

71. The promotion of the security and stability of Haiti has generally advanced in keeping with the timeline projected in the consolidation plan. Ongoing targeted operations by national and international forces have promoted security in urban and rural areas, while the presence of MINUSTAH and National Police elements has been enhanced along the land and maritime border. Operational assistance by the international community will be critical to safeguard and build upon the gains that have been made, and to address threats that could otherwise have regional implications. The continued presence of MINUSTAH military and police can play a critical role in this regard. At the same time, bilateral arrangements may offer a more sustainable means of addressing such difficult collective security challenges as illegal trafficking and cross-border criminal activities.

72. Further progress has been made in developing the National Police, which is critical for the consolidation of stability, and the development of a handover strategy for the operational responsibilities of MINUSTAH. In order to meet the objectives outlined in national plans, it is essential that the Haitian authorities continue to prioritize effective recruitment and training of new police officers, while working with MINUSTAH and bilateral donors to strengthen the institutional capacity of the National Police in a number of areas, including both specialized skills and general management capacity, as well as supporting the provision of equipment and key infrastructure. The promotion of professional values is also indispensable. The determination of the appropriate procedures for certification and their prompt implementation will be of particular importance in this regard. Meanwhile, it is desirable to begin preparation of a blueprint that could guide National Police development efforts following the conclusion of the present plan, which is due to be completed in 2011. This should be harmonized with Haiti's emerging vision for an overall security architecture that provides an appropriate and financially sustainable response to threats. The proposals outlined by the Commission on Public Security will represent an important contribution to this discussion.

73. Continued commitment by the Haitian authorities and additional engagement by the international community are critical to building on progress in the area of rule of law and human rights. Priority objectives, as reflected in the consolidation plan, include the full establishment of the Conseil Supérieur du Pouvoir Judiciaire as an effective body that can exercise oversight over the justice system, in collaboration with responsible offices within the Ministry of Justice. The launch of regular training for judicial personnel through the School of Magistrates will also represent an important step towards the strengthening of the judiciary. In the area of corrections, the start of the construction of a new prison in Croix des Bouquets constitutes a first, concrete step towards addressing the urgent need for expansion of the country's penitentiary system, although far more is needed. It is also desirable that the Haitian authorities undertake further exploration of alternatives to prison sentencing, which could make a longer-term contribution towards alleviating overcrowding, and may favour a more rapid return to productive life by those who

are convicted of minor crimes. Meanwhile, the adoption of legislation for the Office de Protection du Citoyen and the strengthening of its capacity are critical for efforts to institutionalize respect for human rights in the country.

74. In the area of social and economic development, while the creation of several thousand temporary jobs through labour-intensive projects has helped to alleviate immediate needs, an intensified discussion within Haiti, and between the Haitian authorities and the international community, has contributed to the elaboration of a clear path towards lasting social and economic recovery. Continued, generous assistance to meet humanitarian and early recovery requirements will be essential for the foreseeable future. At the same time, it is vital that further efforts be made to lay the foundations for long-term progress, based on the revival of private-sector activity. Haiti's inherent advantages as a location for investment have been highlighted repeatedly over the past year. In order to realize this potential and attain the indicators of progress towards lasting stability, it is critical that the Haitian leadership reach out to the private sector in a joint effort to take advantage of the opportunities that exist. Ongoing programmes to enhance Haiti's physical infrastructure must be complemented with a sustained and collaborative effort to ensure a legislative and regulatory environment that is truly conducive to business. The continued engagement of the international community and the interest of Haitians living abroad will also represent indispensable resources in this effort.

X. Mission support

75. During the reporting period MINUSTAH continued to repair and rebuild Mission infrastructure destroyed in the passage of the hurricanes and tropical storms that struck Haiti during 2008. Significant improvements have been made to ensure that MINUSTAH facilities are better able to withstand the severe weather conditions prevalent in Haiti, and logistics arrangements have been put in place to improve disaster response. Nonetheless, in view of the chronic absence of proper drainage systems throughout the country, flooding of facilities will remain a significant risk. A second substantial area of Mission support activity concerned the construction of MINUSTAH facilities to support patrolling activities along the borders, including maritime installations in Gonaïves, Jacmel, Fort-Liberté and Port-Salut, and the land border facilities at Anse-à-Pitres, Malpasse and Belladère.

76. Support to the senatorial elections constituted a third major logistical undertaking by the Mission during the reporting period. Each round of the elections required the redeployment of approximately 4,200 troops, 450 formed police, 675 police advisers and 400 civilian staff. The Mission transported some 255 tons of electoral materials by road, in addition to organizing 146 election-related flights.

77. During the reporting period, one staff member died outside the Mission area, while 23 were medically evacuated and treated within Haiti and 32 were evacuated to higher-level medical facilities outside Haiti. The Mission also undertook preparations to respond to a possible outbreak of influenza A (H1N1) among MINUSTAH personnel, while cooperating with WHO to assist the Government of Haiti in its own efforts to protect the Haitian population.

Outreach and public information

78. During the reporting period, the Mission increased the production of its television programme *Jwèt Pou Ou* (It's Your Turn) from fortnightly to weekly, and introduced a new programme highlighting the work of the United Nations and the international community in Haiti called *Jwèt Pa Nou* (It's Our Turn). These popular programmes are broadcast on seven television stations in Haiti and eight television stations viewed by the Haitian community living in the United States, The daily radio programmes of MINUSTAH FM, which are broadcast nationally by transmitter and internationally through the Internet, continue to provide news and information to audiences inside and outside the country.

79. Members of Haitian civil society, including an increasing percentage of women users, have continued to use the nine MINUSTAH multimedia centres in growing numbers. Arrangements are being put in place to permit video-conferencing between the centres, which could facilitate greater dialogue and exchange of information, as well as supporting national and local government communications between departments.

XI. Financial aspects

80. By its resolution 63/294, the General Assembly appropriated the amount of $611,751,200, equivalent to $50,979,267 per month, for the maintenance of MINUSTAH for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of MINUSTAH beyond 15 October 2009, the cost of maintaining the Mission until 30 June 2010 would be limited to the amounts approved by the General Assembly.

81. As at 30 April 2009, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for MINUSTAH amounted to $132.8 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to $1,620.3 million.

82. As at 19 August 2009, amounts owed to troop and police contributors to MINUSTAH totalled $96.8 million. Reimbursement of troop and contingent-owned equipment costs have been made for the periods up to 31 December 2008 and 30 September 2008, respectively, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

XII. Observations and recommendations

83. Five years into the stabilization process, there is substantial reason to believe that Haiti is moving away from a past of conflict, towards a brighter future of peaceful development. However, the progress that has been made remains extremely fragile, and is susceptible to setbacks or reversal. Continued commitment by the Haitian leadership and people, by the United Nations and the international community more generally is critical for the consolidation of stability.

84. The Haitian people have primary responsibility for ensuring progress. It is incumbent upon Haiti's leaders, who have helped to create an opportunity for historic change, to continue their efforts to identify broadly supported solutions to

the problems facing the country, including the strengthening of State institutions and possible constitutional reforms. This will require better and more sustained collaboration within and between branches of Government, and also a commitment to inclusive dialogue with the broader public. Further efforts to curb corruption and impunity are also critical. In this connection, effective follow-up to violent incidents during the elections of 19 April would help to shore up public confidence in the democratic process and underline that the same standards apply to all Haitian citizens, regardless of their position.

85. The United Nations can also make a critical contribution to the stabilization process through the activities of MINUSTAH and of the United Nations country team. The operational support of MINUSTAH security components remains vital at a time when Haitian police capacity is still developing, and when the State continues to face significant threats to its stability. At the same time, MINUSTAH technical expertise offers a valuable resource in support of Haitian efforts to strengthen national and local governance capacity and to develop its structures for border management, the rule of law and the protection of human rights. I accordingly recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Mission for an additional year, until 15 October 2010, while incorporating the adjustments recommended in the present report (see paras. 26 and 27), which I believe will enable the Mission to operate effectively within the current environment.

86. The continued engagement of the wider international community is essential if these efforts are to bear fruit. The political commitment shown by Haiti's partners at the Washington Conference, together with subsequent cancellation of the country's debt, offers an encouraging indication of the depth of international support for the country. It is essential that this goodwill be sustained, and that further efforts be made to bring about a tangible change in the daily life of the Haitian people, which is a prerequisite for stability in the short and long term. The engagement of former President Clinton as the United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti is already making an invaluable contribution in this regard.

87. While the road of stabilization and peace processes is rarely smooth, I remain confident that Haiti today enjoys a historic opportunity for progress. I urge the Haitian leadership and people, and their partners in the stabilization process, to remain engaged and to persevere in their efforts to create a brighter future for this remarkable country.

88. I would like to conclude by expressing my sincere gratitude to my Special Representative, Hédi Annabi, and to the men and women of MINUSTAH for their courage and dedication to the stabilization of Haiti, as well as to those Governments which have provided troops and police to the operation.

Annex I

Consolidation plan: benchmarks and revised indicators of progress for the period 2009-2011

I. Political dialogue, elections

Benchmark: continued progress in the resolution of political differences through dialogue and successful completion of a cycle of free and fair elections that culminates in the smooth installation of a president in 2011

Requirements for progress would include sustained political will on the part of key Haitian actors to build an inclusive and collaborative approach, continuing to draw inter alia on an agreed joint agenda by the legislative and executive branches, and enhanced engagement by Haitian civil society; provision of security, logistical and technical support from MINUSTAH; and necessary bilateral funding to permit completion of electoral cycle and strengthening of relevant institutions

Year[a]	Indicators of progress
October 2009-October 2010	• Continued collaborative approach in finding solutions to Haiti's political, economic and social problems, drawing on collaboration between political parties and branches of Government, as well as with the private sector and civil society
	– Full and expeditious consideration is given to recommendations provided by the Presidential Commission on the 1987 Constitution and follow-up action is launched on a basis of broad agreement
	– Other Presidential Commissions present their reports and their recommendations are given prompt consideration
	– Updated legislative agenda is implemented collaboratively by the Government and Parliament
	• Continued support for electoral processes and institutions
	– Democratic elections are held for the Chamber of Deputies and one third of the Senate and all Parliamentarians are sworn in
	– A political consensus is found for the holding of local and Presidential elections
	– Progress towards the establishment of permanent electoral institutions
October 2010-October 2011	• Effective follow-up to recommendations by the Presidential Commission on the 1987 Constitution and other Presidential Commissions, based on broad agreement and a collaborative approach
	• Presidential elections are held in November 2010, and a democratically elected President is inaugurated in February 2011
	• Haitian institutions are able to conduct elections with limited international technical support

[a] For ease of reference by members of the Security Council, this chart compiles a number of objectives and target dates that are drawn from various national plans, including in particular Haitian plans for the reform of the country's rule-of-law institutions. While the need to make progress in these areas is generally agreed, it should be noted that a number of the dates are subject to change, and would be adjusted as required to factor in the evolving circumstances on the ground and take account of the Mission's ongoing dialogue with the Haitian authorities.

II. Extension of State authority

Benchmark: extension of State authority throughout the country through the establishment of legitimate, transparent, accountable democratic institutions, down to the local level, with the capacity to collect and disburse funds for the benefit of the population, including the establishment of a viable system of border management

Requirements for progress would include a collaborative approach by the Haitian political leadership in adopting a strategy for enhancement of administrative capacity at the central and local levels, in seeking consensus on arrangements for decentralization and in adopting a border management strategy; ongoing technical support from MINUSTAH; and bilateral and multilateral provision of expertise to assist in capacity-building, and resources for infrastructure requirements

Year	Indicators of progress
October 2009-October 2010	• Continued progress in strengthening administrative and decision-making capacity at national and local level, and adoption of an overall blueprint for such activities
	• Preparation of a legal and institutional framework for decentralization
	• Continued progress towards development of a comprehensive approach to border management, including through promulgation of Customs code and adoption of the plan for an integrated border management strategy
October 2010-October 2011	• Enhanced capacity to collect and disburse funds for the benefit of the population through strengthened institutions at the central and local levels, drawing on an agreed framework for sound and sustainable arrangements for decentralization
	• Implementation of a comprehensive approach to border management begins, and a critical capacity in this area to be attained through the establishment of necessary institutions and infrastructure, which would draw on further international support as required
	• Enhanced legislative capacity of Parliament and improved collaboration between the executive and legislative branches of Government

III. Ensuring security and stability

Benchmark: establishment of a sustainable security structure that enables Haiti to respond effectively to potential threats within the country and along its land and maritime borders, while respecting international standards and individual freedoms

Requirements for progress would include continued prioritization of necessary decisions on development of Haitian National Police capacity and police certification by the Haitian authorities, as well as development of a consensus on an appropriate overall security structure; continued operational and capacity-building support from MINUSTAH; and provision of bilateral expertise and support for infrastructure requirements

Year	Indicators of progress
October 2009-October 2010	• Continued advances in maintaining security and stability in urban and rural areas, drawing on collaboration between international and Haitian security forces

- Continued strengthening of the Haitian National Police presence, with MINUSTAH support, along land and maritime borders and throughout the country
- Further progress in reaching objectives established by the Haitian National Police reform plan is made through:
  - Graduation of additional Haitian National Police promotions, which will permit a continued increase of overall staffing in accordance with reform plan timelines
  - Continuation of vetting and certification process
  - Continued strengthening of technical capabilities of Haitian judicial police
  - Progress in the development of coast guard capability
  - Strengthened Haitian National Police administrative capacity and progress in training of mid- and upper-level management
  - Continued development of Haitian National Police infrastructures
  - Preparation of a follow-on development plan to the current Haitian National Police reform plan
- Full and expeditious consideration is given to recommendations provided by Presidential Commission on Security and broad agreement is reached on follow-up action
- Progress in the public weapons registration programme

October 2010-October 2011

- Further progress would be made during this period in all of the areas outlined by the Haitian National Police reform plan, so that, by the end of 2011, most key objectives of the Haitian National Police reform plan would be attained or within reach:
  - Haitian National Police strength of 14,000 adequately trained and professional officers; completion of Haitian National Police certification process
  - Haitian National Police capacity to provide essential police services throughout the country
- Follow-up to recommendations of Presidential Commission on Security on a basis of broad agreement
- Sustainable arrangements to provide security along the land and maritime borders, drawing on international assistance and complementary bilateral activities as necessary
- This would in turn permit an overall evaluation of residual requirements for international assistance
- Approval of further development planning for the Haitian National Police
- Completion of registration process for some 31,000 weapons

IV. Rule of law and human rights

Benchmark: establishment of an independent and credible judicial and penal system that respects and upholds human rights and is accessible to all citizens

Requirements for progress would include continued prioritization of necessary decisions by the Haitian authorities, enhanced engagement by civil society, continued operational and capacity-building support from MINUSTAH, and provision of bilateral expertise and contributions to meet infrastructure requirements

Year	Indicators of progress
October 2009-October 2010	• In accordance with the national plan for justice reform and the three fundamental laws on the independence of the judiciary adopted in December 2007:
	– The Supreme Council of the Judiciary is established (pending appointment of its President)
	– Judicial inspection system is established within the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and, subsequently, within the Supreme Council of the Judiciary
	– A first class of future magistrates begins training at the School after undergoing the competitive process
	– Establishment of specialized chambers for corruption and organized crime
	– Identification of urgent reforms of the criminal procedure codes, including alternatives to imprisonment and statute for judicial auxiliaries
	– Adoption of the legislation and organigram for the Ministry of Justice and Public Security which inter alia lays the basis for a strategic planning and programming unit to steer the execution of the justice reform process
	• In pursuit of the objectives established by the strategic plan of the National Prison Administration:
	– Substantial increase of bed space in corrections facilities beyond the current space of some 5,000 m^2 housing 8,790 detainees
	– Graduation of 270 corrections officers; training of senior managers and supervisors; development of policy and procedures
	• Adoption of legislation for the Office of Citizen Protection and progress towards strengthening its effectiveness
	• Ratification of additional key international human rights instruments
October 2010-October 2011	• The reforms implemented enable the justice system to achieve a significant increase in trials and judicial decisions, and a decrease of prolonged and illegal pretrial detentions
	– The Supreme Council of the Judiciary is functioning effectively as a control and disciplinary body for the judiciary
	– According to planning reflected in the National Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Document, 150 new Courts of the Peace, 6 new Courts of First Instance and 4 new Courts of Appeal would be added to the 200 Courts of the Peace, 18

	Courts of First Instance and 5 Courts of Appeal that are currently in place – A national legal aid system is in place – Juvenile justice system strengthened and operational in Port-au-Prince, Cap Haïtien and in other new jurisdictions – As foreseen in the National Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Document, the justice reform plan is extended or renewed for an additional three-year period, on the basis of clearly defined objectives • In pursuit of the objectives established by the strategic plan of the National Prison Administration, which continues to offer a guide for essential additional international assistance efforts through 2012: – Further increase of bed space in corrections facilities, based on completion of ongoing projects that would create 6,000 m^2 of additional prison space and on launch of further projects, in keeping with a national objective of creating by 2012 sufficient prison space to accommodate over 10,000 detainees within international norms – A core of corrections officers and supervisors would have received sufficient training to enable them to operate with limited assistance • The Office of Citizen Protection is fully operational and effective, drawing on limited additional support, as required

V. Social and economic development

Benchmark: lasting stability will require prevention of any further decline in living conditions, delivery of basic services to the most vulnerable, tangible improvement in the living standards of the population and creating the conditions for economic recovery

Requirements for progress would include necessary policy decisions by the Haitian leadership to help meet urgent needs and to create a framework for investment and development; coordinated and sustained generosity on the part of donors, renewed efforts by multilateral agencies and international financial institutions; and the active engagement of the private sector in Haiti and abroad

Year	Indicators of progress
2008-2011	• Provision of assistance to meet the urgent needs of the Haitian people, drawing on support from the international community and contributions from the private sector – Assistance in the area of food and agriculture – Support for the development of labour-intensive projects – Progress towards improving availability of education – Support for improvement of health, through vaccination campaign • Improvement in business environment – Progress in creating a legislative and regulatory environment that favours business and investment

- Progress in key infrastructure projects, including through provision of bilateral assistance

• Results to be achieved by the end of this period should include:

- Increase in GDP (with prospects for sustained growth over several consecutive years)
- Increase in employment
- Increased internal and foreign investment
- Increase in agricultural and industrial production
- Steady increase in State revenue
- Low inflation rate
- Improvement in the delivery of basic services
- Decrease in the percentage of population affected by food insecurity

Annex II

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti: countries providing military staff and contingents (as at 25 August 2009)

	Staff officers		*Troops*		
Country	*Females*	*Males*	*Females*	*Males*	*Total*
Argentina		9	30	521	560
Bolivia		3	10	195	208
Brazil		15[a]	7	1 260	1 282
Canada		5	—	—	5
Chile		6	14	480	500
Croatia		2	—	—	2
Ecuador		1	—	66	67
France		2	—	—	2
Guatemala		5	6	107	118
Jordan		10	—	718	728
Nepal		10	10	1 054	1 074
Paraguay		—	—	31	31
Peru		4	—	204	208
Philippines		2	—	175	177
Sri Lanka		10	—	949	959
United States of America	1	3	—	—	4
Uruguay		13	37	1 083	1 133
Total	**1**	**100**	**114**	**6 843**	**7 058**

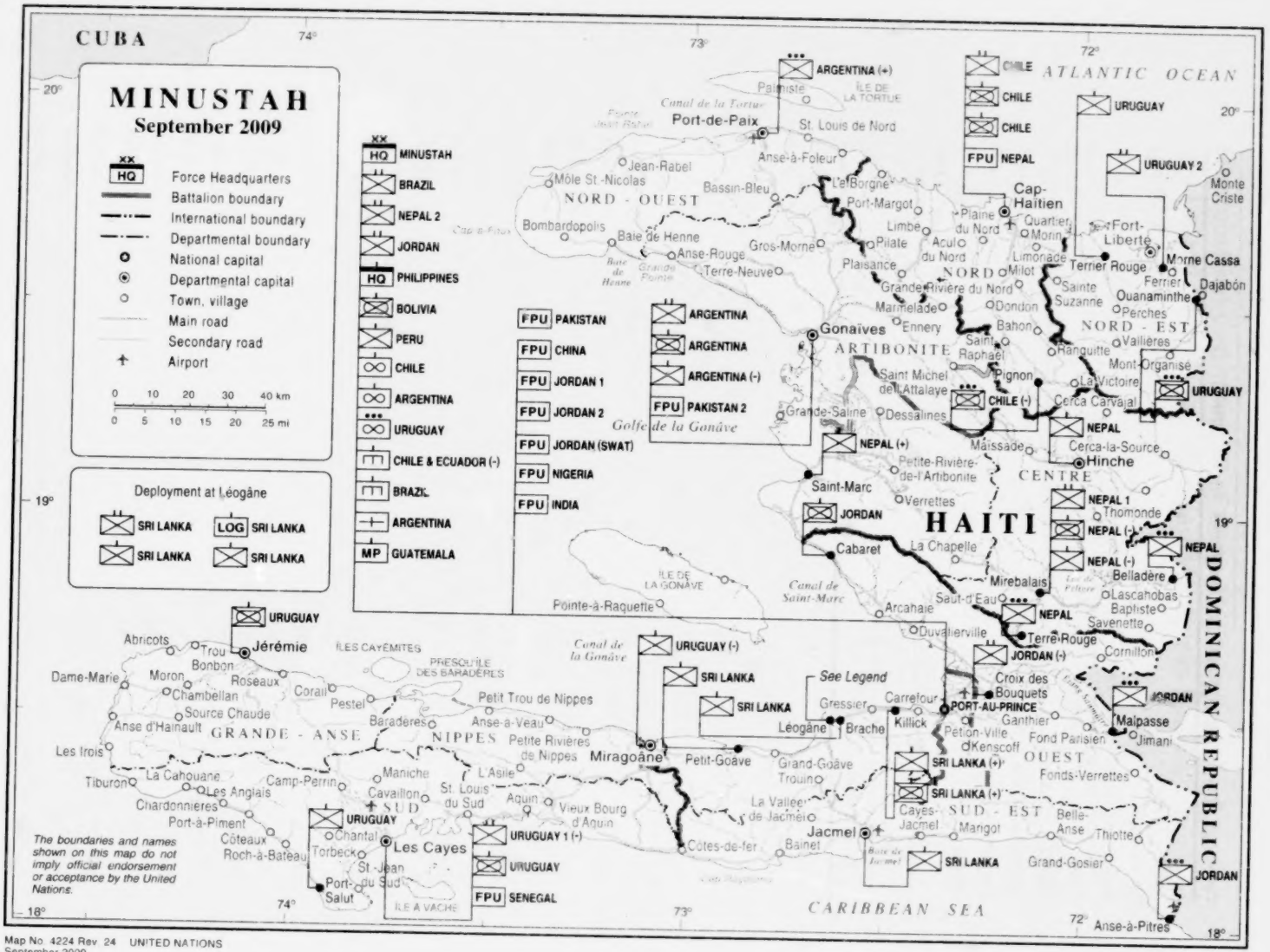
[a] Including the Force Commander.

Annex III

Composition and strength of the police component of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (as at 25 August 2009)

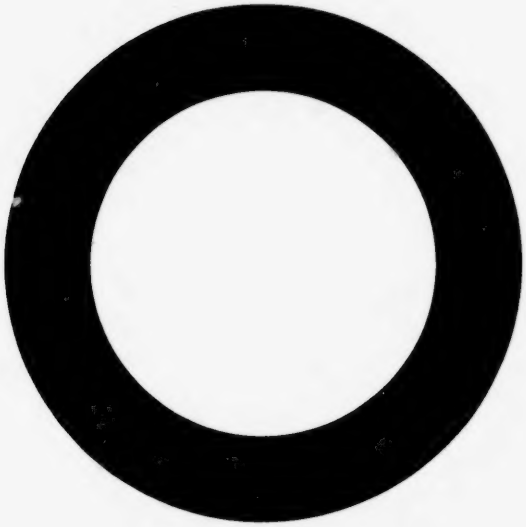
	Number of United Nations police		*Number of formed police units*	
Country	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*
Argentina	0	14	0	0
Benin	1	29	0	0
Brazil	0	3	0	0
Burkina Faso	0	21	0	0
Cameroon	1	12	0	0
Canada	11	80	0	0
Central African Republic	1	2	0	0
Chad	0	14	0	0
Chile	1	14	0	0
China	4	15	6	119
Colombia	0	27	0	0
Côte d'Ivoire	4	63	0	0
Croatia	0	3	0	0
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0	2	0	0
Egypt	0	31	0	0
El Salvador	2	12	0	0
France	3	50	0	0
Grenada	0	3	0	0
Guinea	4	51	0	0
India	0	11	0	139
Jamaica	0	5	0	0
Jordan	0	33	0	290
Madagascar	0	9	0	0
Mali	1	41	0	0
Nepal	2	52	12	113
Niger	2	49	0	0
Nigeria	0	0	17	106
Pakistan	0	0	0	247
Philippines	5	17	0	0
Romania	4	16	0	0
Russian Federation	1	10	0	0
Rwanda	0	11	0	0
Senegal	0	36	0	85
Serbia	1	4	0	0

Country	Number of United Nations police		Number of formed police units	
	Female	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*
Spain	5	39	0	0
Sri Lanka	0	2	0	0
Switzerland	0	1	0	0
Togo	0	5	0	0
Turkey	1	45	0	0
United States of America	4	39	0	0
Uruguay	0	6	0	0
Yemen	0	3	0	0
	58	880	35	1 099
Total	**938**		**1 134**	
Grand total		**2 072**		



Map No. 4224 Rev. 24 UNITED NATIONS
September 2009

Department of Field Support
Cartographic Section



United Nations S/2009/440

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 September 2009

Original: English

Note by the President of the Security Council

After consultations among the members of the Security Council, it was agreed to elect the Chairmen of the following committees for the period ending 31 December 2009:

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Chairman:

Ertuğrul Apakan (Turkey)

Costa Rica and Viet Nam will continue to serve as Vice-Chairmen for the said period.

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006)

Chairman:

Ertuğrul Apakan (Turkey)

Costa Rica and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya will continue to serve as Vice-Chairmen for the said period.

09-50351 (E) 080909

Please recycle

United Nations A/63/955–S/2009/441

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
3 September 2009

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda item 13
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 1 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a document prepared by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding violations by Russia of the 12 August 2008 ceasefire agreement (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 13, "Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development".

(*Signed*) Alexander **Lomaia**
Permanent Representative

09-50222 (E) 040909

Please recycle

Annex to the identical letters dated 1 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Information regarding the violations by the Russian Federation of the 12 August 2008 ceasefire agreement during July and August 2009

Since the Russian Federation's military aggression in August 2008 and subsequent occupation of Georgia's territories, the Russian occupation forces have been exercising an effective control over Abkhazia, Georgia and the Tskhinvali region, Georgia.

Throughout this period, Russia remains in grave violation of the fundamental norms and principles of international law, as well as its multilateral and bilateral international obligations. Russia also remains in severe breach of every provision of the ceasefire agreement signed on 12 August 2008.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of Russia's violations of the 12 August 2008 ceasefire agreement.

- On 3 July 2009, a report that the Investigation Committee of the Russian Prosecutor's Office had completed the investigation and allegedly confirmed the culpability of the Georgian authorities in "large-scale murdering and genocide" was released. By statements of this kind Russia tries to influence the activities of the European Union independent commission to determine the reasons for the Russia-Georgia war, 2008.

- On 13 July, President of the Russian Federation D. Medvedev arrived in Tskhinvali, in the occupied territory of a sovereign State, in blatant violation of Georgia's State border, which is a complete contravention of the norms and principles of international law.

- On 20 July, Minister of Emergency Situations S. Shoigu, Minister of Internal Affairs R. Nurgaliev and Prosecutor-General Y. Chaika arrived in Tskhinvali, accompanied by employees of the Prosecutor's Office.

- On 22 July, servicemen of the Russian occupation troops illegally deployed in Abkhazia, Georgia together with the proxy regime's armed gangs detained 27 passengers on their way from the village of Otobaia, Gali district to the village of Ganmukhuri, Zugdidi district. The Russian occupants accused the detainees of attempts to illegally cross the so-called "state border" of Abkhazia and to transport smuggled goods because they did not hold Russian or "Abkhazian" passports. The detained passengers were released only after they pledged to obtain so-called Abkhazian passports.

- On 28 July, paratroop commander Lieutenant General V. Shamanov stated during a press conference that a subdivision of the Minor Air Forces (light aviation) of the Russian Federation will soon appear above South Ossetia and Abkhazia. He also said that low and average altitudes, which are not accessible to air defence systems, might be exploited by Russian unmanned aerial

vehicles (UAVs) to trace enemy in their battlefields and make corrections in firing tactics.

- On 29 July, the villages of Zemo Khviti and Zemo Niqozi and a Georgian police checkpoint located nearby came under fire from the Russian-occupied territory of Georgia — Tskhinvali. The intense fire lasted for an hour and involved rifles, mortars and machine guns. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia tried to get in touch with the Russian side via the hotline set up under the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism. However, the Russian occupants avoided contact.

- The occupation forces of the Russian Federation are constructing a military aerodrome on the territory adjacent to the historic palace of Mukhranbatoni, now serving as a nunnery of St. Monk Aleksi (Shushania), located in the village of Ikoti in the occupied Akhalgori region. The construction of the military aerodrome at this location endangers the existence of this significant historic monument.

- On 31 July, the Head of the Border Guard Service of the Federal Security Service of Russia, V. Pronichev, informed the leader of the proxy regime, E. Kokoity, that Russian border guards had begun performing their duties across the "border" with Georgia.

- On 12 August 2009, on the anniversary of the signing of the six-point ceasefire agreement, V. Putin arrived in the occupied Abkhazian region and held meetings with the proxy authorities of Sokhumi in blatant violation of Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

The Georgian side expressed its strong protest at the illegal activities of Russia. The subsequent notes regarding the above-mentioned facts have been conveyed to the Russian side via the Embassy of Switzerland in Tbilisi, Georgia.

United Nations S/2009/442

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 September 2009

Original: English

Letter dated 2 September 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Portugal, in its capacity as Presidency of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP), has the honour to transmit herewith the text of a declaration published by CPLP on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the referendum that led to the independence of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Lobo de Mesquita**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of Portugal to the United Nations

09-50333 (E) 080909

Annex to the letter dated 2 September 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement

The Democratic Republic of East Timor celebrates today, 30 August 2009, the tenth anniversary of the referendum that led to the independence of this young nation.

At this historical moment, the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) congratulates the authorities as well as the people of East Timor, joining them in the celebrations marking both the end of 25 years of external domain and the recovery of its national sovereignty.

The CPLP and its member States pay tribute to the East Timorese people, who, with their effort and sacrifice, contributed in a decisive way to the establishment of a democratic regime in this CPLP member State.

The CPLP rejoices with the progress achieved by this country in the last 10 years, and takes this opportunity to salute the East Timorese authorities, who demonstrated their commitment to overcome the initial difficulties concerning the consolidation of the rule of law, finding compromise solutions, through dialogue, allowing the East Timorese people to enjoy the benefits of a plural and democratic society, established by the restoration of independence.

The CPLP salutes the persistence of the East Timorese leaders in the sustained growth of the Organization, and assures its continuous support to the consolidation process of the country's institutions, the reinforcement of its national unity and the defence of its national sovereignty.

United Nations S/2009/443

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 September 2009

Original: English

Letter dated 3 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I would like to bring your attention to the already stated principled stand and countermeasures of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in connection with the letter addressed to us by the so-called "Sanctions Committee" of the United Nations Security Council requesting a clarification.

On 13 June 2009, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) made its statement that the DPRK totally rejects resolution 1874 (2009), which was unfairly orchestrated in wanton violation of the sovereignty and dignity of the DPRK, and that the DPRK will never be bound by this resolution.

We do not feel, therefore, any need to respond to the request made by the Security Council "Committee".

Had the Security Council, from the very beginning, not made an issue of the DPRK's peaceful satellite launch, in the same way as it kept silent over the satellite launch conducted by South Korea on 25 August 2009, it would not have compelled the DPRK to take strong counteraction, such as its second nuclear test.

It is fair and square to find that the DPRK took its steps of action to cope with the high-handed act and threat aimed at depriving the DPRK of its rights to peaceful economic construction.

It would be a miscalculation if the Security Council, rather than apologizing for violating the legitimate right of a State member of the United Nations, thought that we would recognize the "sanctions resolution", which was framed in the same way as the thief turning on the victim with a club over the DPRK's self-defensive steps.

We have never objected to have the denuclearization itself of the Korean Peninsula and of the world. What we have objected to is the structure of the six-way talks, which have been used to violate outrageously the sovereignty of the DPRK and its right to peaceful development.

The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is closely related with the United States nuclear policy towards the DPRK. The DPRK has already made clear its countermeasures to cope with sanctions as well. The reprocessing of spent fuel rods is in its final phase and extracted plutonium is being weaponized. Experimental

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uranium enrichment has been successfully conducted to enter into the completion phase.

We are prepared for both dialogue and sanctions. If some permanent members of the Security Council wish to put sanctions first before dialogue, we would respond by bolstering our nuclear deterrence first, before meeting them in a dialogue.

If the Security Council only continues this stand-off, without making a proper judgment of which path is more favourable for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and of the world, the DPRK will be left with no choice but to take yet another strong self-defensive countermeasure, as it had already warned.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Sin** Son Ho
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its third session

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005), in which the Peacebuilding Commission was requested to submit an annual report to the General Assembly for an annual debate and review. The report will also be submitted to the Security Council, pursuant to its resolution 1646 (2005), for an annual debate. The report reviews the work of the Peacebuilding Commission during its third session, from 23 June 2008 to 30 June 2009.

II. Work of the Commission

2. The end of the second session marked the expiration of the terms of membership of 24 out of 31 members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission. In the absence of agreement among the members of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on the regional distribution of seats, the election of their respective members to the Organizational Committee, as well as the confirmation of members selected by the group of top providers of military and police personnel on the Organizational Committee, was postponed. Consequently, the terms of membership of the incumbent members from the aforementioned categories and the terms of office of the Chairperson, Yukio Takasu (Japan), and the Chairs of the various configurations were extended until the two organs were able to elect their respective members.

3. On 18 December 2008, and following an agreement reached among Member States and their respective regional groups on the distribution of seats until 31 December 2010, the General Assembly adopted resolution 63/145, establishing that, beginning with the sixty-third session of the Assembly, the term of office for elected members of the General Assembly to the Organizational Committee shall

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begin on 1 January. The resolution invited all other bodies with members on the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission to adjust the term of office of their respective members accordingly.

4. On 7 January 2009, the Commission elected its new Chairperson, Heraldo Muñoz (Chile), and Vice-Chairperson,[1] Park In-kook (Republic of Korea). The Burundi, Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone configurations were chaired by Anders Lidén (Sweden), Jan Grauls (Belgium), Maria Luiza R. Viotti (Brazil) and Frank Majoor (Netherlands), respectively. The Working Group on Lessons Learned was chaired by Carmen Gallardo Hernández (El Salvador).

5. On 25 February and 29 June 2009, on the basis of consultations with the Governments of Sierra Leone and Burundi, the Organizational Committee elected the Permanent Representative of Canada as the new Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration and the Permanent Representative of Switzerland as the new Chair of the Burundi configuration. The election of the new Chairs of the Sierra Leone and the Burundi configurations followed the resignations of the Permanent Representatives of the Netherlands and Sweden.

6. The various configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission met regularly and addressed issues pertaining to their respective areas of competence.

A. Organizational Committee

7. During the third session, the Organizational Committee held on average one monthly informal meeting to address organizational and substantive matters. Formal meetings were convened only as necessary. The monthly meetings of the Chairs of the Commission configurations contributed to developing the agenda of meetings of the Organizational Committee and, in general, the Commission work programme. In particular, the meetings of the Organizational Committee provided an opportunity for the members to interact with the Peacebuilding Support Office and to contribute to the drafting process of the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/63/881-S/2009/304), as requested by the Security Council in its presidential statement of 20 May 2008 (S/PRST/2008/16). The Organizational Committee addressed that issue on five occasions during the period 15 September 2008 to 27 May 2009.

8. In addition, on 6 and 7 February 2009, the Organizational Committee convened its second annual informal retreat at the ambassadorial level, at which it focused on the value added and visibility of the Commission in the countries on its agenda; improving the Commission working methods; and building and strengthening partnerships. The Deputy Secretary-General inaugurated the retreat with a keynote address.

9. The Chairperson also undertook a number of activities on behalf of the members of the Organizational Committee, on which he reported regularly to the Organizational Committee and received feedback and suggestions from the membership.

[1] The position of the second Vice-Chairperson was allocated to the Group of African States. At the time of issuance of the present report on 30 July 2009, the Group of African States had not submitted a nomination for this position.

Interaction with the United Nations principal organs

10. The Chairperson maintained regular and direct contacts with the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, with a view to enhancing mutual cooperation in the work and activities of the Commission and the principal organs.

11. On 9 and 21 October 2008, the Chairperson addressed the General Assembly and the Security Council, respectively, on the occasions of the annual debates held by the two organs on the report of the Commission on its second session (A/63/92-S/2008/417). The two debates offered an opportunity for the Commission to seek the views of the broader membership of the United Nations on matters of direct relevance to its work. The majority of the Member States viewed the progress achieved during the first two years of the Commission's operations as positive and promising, while pointing to the need to focus on country-specific tangible results as the Commission further developed its engagement with the countries on its agenda.

12. On 31 March 2009, the Chairperson represented the Commission at a high-level panel discussion dedicated to health challenges in crisis and post-crisis situations, which was organized by the Economic and Social Council. On 27 May, he hosted a working luncheon for the Chairs and the representatives of the permanent members of the Security Council.

Public awareness and visibility of the work of the Peacebuilding Commission

13. During the reporting period, the Chairperson also participated in several public events related to peacebuilding and to the work of the Commission, organized by a range of existing and potential actors, stakeholders and partners. On 25 August 2008, he was invited to make a presentation on the theme "Peacebuilding in Africa" in the European Forum Alpbach, Austria. On 10 September, the Chairperson was invited to participate as a panellist in the working luncheon on the theme "Addressing gaps in early recovery: Peacebuilding Commission perspective on next steps", which was organized by the Quaker United Nations Office and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung office in New York. On 18 November, he was also invited to address the informal breakfast discussion at the United Nations Peace Consolidation Benchmarking Experts Workshop. On 24 November, the Chairperson made a presentation at the University for Peace in Costa Rica. On 12 December, he addressed the inaugural session of the conference on the theme "Media and communications in peacebuilding", which was organized by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat.

14. On 27 and 28 March 2009, the Chairperson participated in a summit of progressive leaders, held at Viña del Mar, Chile. He also participated in several academic seminars and meetings with a view to raising awareness about the Commission. Among those were seminars on rule of law (New York, 21 April 2009) and on "Peacebuilding: the role of diasporas" (28-29 April 2009); as well as the sixth meeting of the Friends of Human Security (4 June 2009); the Stanley Foundation's informal retreat on the theme "Peacebuilding following conflict" (19-21 June 2009); and the luncheon on post-conflict peacebuilding organized by the International Peace Institute and the Permanent Mission of Uganda (30 June 2009).

15. The participation of the Chairperson in those public events was part of a broader outreach and advocacy strategy aimed at raising the profile and increasing the visibility of the Commission in different quarters and enhancing awareness about its work. Members of the Organizational Committee also organized events relating to the work of the Commission, including a round table hosted on 10 and 11 December 2008 by the International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, on augmenting input from the South into peacebuilding theory and practice.

16. Furthermore, the Chairperson held a meeting and made further contacts with artist and pro-peace activist Yoko Ono (3 March) and with other philanthropists in order to seek their contribution to the work of the Commission and to the Peacebuilding Fund. The Chairperson also launched discussion among the members of the Organizational Committee on the creation of a group of friends of peacebuilding.

Relationship with the United Nations system, agencies, funds and programmes, regional and subregional organizations, and international financial institutions

17. In line with the Commission's role in improving the coordination of all relevant actors involved in peacebuilding efforts, especially within the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations and international financial institutions, various activities were undertaken in order to strengthen the relationship between the Commission and those actors.

18. On 22 October 2008, the Chairperson, accompanied by the Chairs of country-specific configurations, met with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to confirm the importance that the Commission attached to enhancing cooperation with UNDP at the country level, in countries on the agenda of the Commission. On 29 October 2008, the Associate Administrator of UNDP addressed a meeting of the Organizational Committee on the role of UNDP in supporting programmes for employment generation and private sector development in countries emerging from conflict. The presentation by the senior UNDP official and the following interactive dialogue with the members of the Organizational Committee confirmed the importance of strengthening partnership and coherence with UNDP and other relevant United Nations funds, agencies and programmes in addressing the most critical peacebuilding priorities and activities for the countries on the Commission agenda.

19. On 19 November 2008, the Organizational Committee convened a follow-up meeting with a view to further examining a comprehensive approach to employment and income generation, as well as private sector development in post-conflict countries. Representatives of the United National Capital Development Fund at UNDP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Bank were invited to introduce concrete lessons from the field in post-conflict countries and to analyse the most effective policy tools leading to sustained employment generation and private sector development. On 7 January 2009, the Organizational Committee took note of the Chairperson's outcome of discussions from those meetings.

20. On 14 and 31 October 2008, the Chairperson and the President of the World Bank exchanged letters containing, inter alia, their respective views on the nexus between security and development as it related to the transition from conflict to peace. On 18 March 2009, the Organizational Committee convened an interactive

dialogue with the representatives of the European Community, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank on the impact of the global economic and financial crisis on countries emerging from conflict, with special emphasis on countries placed on the Commission agenda. On the same day, the Chairperson met with the Senior Vice-President of External Affairs of the World Bank on the cooperation between the World Bank and the Commission, within the framework of the cooperation agreement signed between the World Bank and the United Nations.

21. On 24 March 2009, during a visit to the headquarters of IMF and the World Bank in Washington, D.C., the Chairperson reflected to the authorities of those institutions the concerns expressed by the members of the Organizational Committee regarding the implications for the post-conflict countries of the current economic and financial crisis. Furthermore, during the same visit the Commission's keen interest in continuing to strengthen the evolving partnership with IMF and the World Bank was confirmed.

22. In addition and as part of the Commission strategy to strengthen its outreach to regional organizations, the Chairperson visited the headquarters of the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C. and met with its Secretary General.

23. The Chairperson also met with the Head of the United Nations Liaison Office with the African Union and later received an open invitation from the African Union Commission to meet with its authorities at its headquarters before the end of 2009.

24. On 4 and 5 May 2009, the Chairperson visited the headquarters of the European Commission and the Council of the European Union in Brussels, where he exchanged views with senior European officials and advocated for the continued engagement of the European Community in the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in the countries on its agenda.

25. On 19 June, the Chairperson chaired a panel on the theme "Peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict" in an annual event entitled "Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and Member States: towards an interactive dialogue".

26. Furthermore, during the first half of 2009, the Chairperson held bilateral meetings with high-level officials dealing with peacebuilding from several Member States.

Consideration of broad strategy on implementing core mandates of the Peacebuilding Commission

27. The Organizational Committee continued to address possible approaches to enhancing its capacity to implement its core mandates and adapt to prevailing global realities and evolving approaches to critical peacebuilding priorities.

28. On 18 March 2009, the Organizational Committee convened a discussion on enhancing the capacity of the Peacebuilding Commission to fulfil its resource mobilization mandate. The discussion confirmed the need for the Commission to continue to enhance its capacity to engage traditional and non-traditional partners in order to address critical resource gaps in the countries on its agenda. In particular, the discussion underlined the importance of engaging the private sector and foundations as potential partners in channelling technical and financial resources to countries on the Commission agenda, in particular for employment and income generation. Furthermore, the discussion reiterated the need for the Commission to

build partnerships and to intensify its advocacy and awareness-raising activities with key partners, as well as its direct resource mobilization support for countries on its agenda.

29. On 29 April 2009, in connection with the mandate of the Peacebuilding Commission to improve coordination of all peacebuilding actors, the Organizational Committee held a discussion on the United Nations rule of law coordination strategy, with particular emphasis on the implications for countries on the Commission agenda. The Organizational Committee was briefed by the Director of the Rule of Law Unit, who underlined possible areas in which the evolving coordination strategy would contribute to the coherence and effectiveness of the Commission's advice on peacebuilding activities related to rule of law.

Procedure and working methods

30. The Organizational Committee continued to adopt and devise flexible practices on procedural matters that were not originally addressed in its provisional rules of procedure or its working methods, including the adoption of a new approach to meeting management in order to streamline its work under a predictable and stable workplan, while at the same time ensuring the allocation of the requisite resources to facilitate the conduct of its meetings. It also continued to take a number of organizational decisions through the silence procedure.

31. In the context of its annual retreat, the Organizational Committee addressed the connection between the Commission working methods and the ability to further enhance its value added and effectiveness. The Organizational Committee recognized the need to continue to introduce improvements in the working methods that did not necessarily require new mandates, such as modified approaches to the purpose and scope of integrated peacebuilding strategies, strengthening and diversifying the approach to resource mobilization, calibrating response to emerging situations in the field and harmonizing the work of the various configurations. In the course of various meetings, the Organizational Committee also discussed areas o improvements that might be addressed in the context of the upcoming mandated review in 2010, such as the nature and scope of its advisory role and the establishment of its agenda.

B. Burundi configuration

32. During the reporting period, there were a number of crucial developments in Burundi's peace process and peacebuilding efforts. In its third year of engagement with Burundi, the Commission focused on supporting those efforts, with particular emphasis on ensuring the durability of the peace gains and making such gains amenable to the country's socio-economic development needs.

33. From 21 to 23 October 2008, the Chair of the country configuration undertook a mission to Burundi in order to discuss with stakeholders the opportunities for and challenges of mutual engagements in the peacebuilding process. On the basis of the Chair's mission and consultations, the Burundi configuration adopted a workplan focusing on three main issues: (a) support to the peace process, notably on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of Parti pour la libération du peuple Hutu-Forces Nationales de Libération (Palipehutu-FNL); (b) assistance to Burundi in creating an environment conducive to free, fair and transparent national elections

in 2010; and (c) support to refugees and land issues and socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants. In addition, the Peacebuilding Commission agreed to attach priority to two strategic issues: (a) improving the impact of the Commission on the ground, including through effective coordination of its members present in Burundi; and (b) efficient communication on the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi and its relationship with other complementary tools, such as support from the Peacebuilding Fund and the Burundi Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

34. On 10 December 2008, the Chair of the Burundi configuration briefed the Security Council on the Commission's engagement with the country, reiterating the priority plans for its support to the country. On 12 December 2008, the Burundi configuration addressed the developments in the peace process with the participation of the Facilitator of the Burundi peace process, Charles Nqakula. The Facilitator briefed the members on the outcome of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Great Lakes region, which took place on 4 December 2008, and on the challenges relating to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and the political integration of Palipehutu-FNL. Following his briefing, the members of the configuration confirmed their support to the efforts aimed at addressing those challenges and their readiness to contribute to the funding for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. The Commission adopted the conclusions of the Burundi configuration (PBC/3/BDI/1) calling for urgent international support for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and requesting, inter alia, that the Government develop a longer-term strategy for sustainable socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants, return refugees and internally displaced persons.

35. In the light of the developments in the peace process, the Chair was invited to the meeting of the Group of Special Envoys for Burundi, which took place on 16 and 17 January 2009 in Bujumbura. The Envoys issued a declaration expressing support to the peace process and calling on the parties to fulfil their respective commitments made in the Bujumbura Declaration. The commencement of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process on 16 March 2009 was an important development supported by the African Union Special Task Force, with funding from the Peacebuilding Fund and contributions of several members of the Commission. On 18 April 2009, the leader of Forces Nationales de Libération (FNL),[2] Agathon Rwasa, laid down his arms thereby effecting the separation of the movement's security arm and the registration of FNL as a political party.

36. On 4 February 2009, the Burundi configuration held the second biannual review of the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi. The review was led by the Government of Burundi and conducted on the basis of a consultative process involving a broad range of stakeholders in Burundi, including civil society, political parties and international stakeholders. Participants in the review agreed that a number of positive steps had been taken towards the full implementation of the Strategic Framework, including in the areas of implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement and the Bujumbura Summit Declaration; the efforts to professionalize the defence and security corps;

[2] The Palipehutu-FNL changed its name to Forces Nationales de Libération (FNL) in complying with the Bujumbura Summit Declaration and in conforming to Burundi's constitutional provisions for the registration of political parties (for example, prohibition of ethnocentric names).

the preparations for the national transitional justice consultations; and the involvement of women and youth in peace consolidation efforts. However, the review also noted a number of important remaining challenges that required attention and support from the Commission. Those challenges included outstanding elements of the peace process, the institutionalization of the political dialogue among stakeholders and the preparations for the forthcoming national elections, the consolidation of good governance and the efforts to strengthen rule of law and human rights, and the regularization of monitoring and reporting against established benchmarks. The Government of Burundi also urged the international community to deliver on the commitments made during the May 2007 donor round table. On 6 February 2009, the Commission adopted the conclusions of the second biannual review (PBC/3/BDI/3).

37. From 25 to 27 May 2009, the Chair undertook a visit to Burundi in order to follow up on progress and mutual commitments made in the implementation of the Strategic Framework. He concluded that the peacebuilding process in Burundi had entered a new phase following significant developments in the peace process. He noted, however, that the completion of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and the preparation of a long-term socio-economic reintegration strategy would require attention and support from the Commission and that continued leadership of the Regional Initiative for Burundi in the Partnership for Peace in Burundi to monitor progress and provide the support required would be critical for the success of the peace process. He also noted that the national elections scheduled for 2010 presented an important opportunity to further consolidate peace and democracy in Burundi.

C. Sierra Leone configuration

38. During its third year of engagement with Sierra Leone, the Peacebuilding Commission focused on three primary objectives: (a) maintaining attention and reviewing progress in peacebuilding efforts; (b) broadening the donor base and enhancing the coherence of international assistance; and (c) supporting new or improving existing activities in peacebuilding priority areas. The Commission also provided advice to the Security Council on the establishment of a fully integrated office, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone, in October 2008.

39. In order to monitor progress in the implementation of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework, adopted by the Peacebuilding Commission and the Government of Sierra Leone in December 2007, the Commission held formal review meetings in June and December 2008. Those meetings were informed by progress reports developed jointly by the Government of Sierra Leone and its international partners. The meetings highlighted achievements to date and identified remaining challenges under each peacebuilding priority area. The recommendations and conclusions emanating from the meetings were transmitted to all relevant stakeholders in Sierra Leone, the principal organs of the United Nations and all international partners.

40. In addition to formal six-monthly review meetings, the Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration convened strategic consultations with the representatives of the private sector, philanthropic foundations and international financial institutions in

order to mobilize additional support for peace consolidation efforts in Sierra Leone. The Chair's meetings with the representatives of IMF and the World Bank, in particular, reaffirmed the need for enhanced collaboration between the Commission and those institutions in preparation for the November 2009 Consultative Group meeting on Sierra Leone. The meetings also highlighted the negative impact of the global economic crisis on Sierra Leone and underscored the importance of continued resource mobilization efforts by the Peacebuilding Commission.

41. In the Chair's statement issued on 6 April 2009, the Commission welcomed the adoption of the Sierra Leone political parties' joint communiqué. The joint communiqué had been developed through an inter-party dialogue convened in response to incidents of political violence in Sierra Leone in March 2009. The Commission commended the Government and the opposition leaders on overcoming their differences and reaching agreement on a number of critical issues, including the role of the ruling and opposition parties, the setting up of mechanisms to investigate the March violence, and the strengthening of important democratic institutions, in particular the Parliament, the Political Parties Registration Commission, and the Independent Media Commission. The Commission also welcomed the contribution of international partners, particularly by the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone, in facilitating the inter-party dialogue and the adoption of the joint communiqué. Stressing the importance of timely follow-up to the agreements of the joint communiqué, the Commission called on all international partners to provide the needed financial and technical support.

42. As a follow-up to the adoption of the joint communiqué, the Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration undertook a fact-finding mission to the country from 20 to 24 April 2009. During the visit the Chair held consultations with top Government officials, including the President, several cabinet ministers, leaders of the opposition parties, and representatives of the international community, the United Nations and civil society. The findings of the visit highlighted that Sierra Leone continued to make progress towards peace consolidation. However, the country's impressive democratic and peacebuilding gains were still fragile and required sustained international support. High levels of youth unemployment, widespread corruption, and the growing threat of illicit drug trafficking all raised the risk of relapse into conflict. Additional efforts were also needed to consolidate reforms in the justice and security sectors.

43. The Chair's visit also provided an opportunity to prepare for the Commission High-level Special Session on Sierra Leone, held in New York on 10 June 2009. The Special Session brought together senior representatives of Member States, the United Nations, the private sector and civil society. The primary objectives of the Special Session were: (a) to provide political support for the implementation of the political parties' joint communiqué; (b) to endorse the Agenda for Change of the Government of Sierra Leone as the core strategy guiding all future national and international development efforts; (c) to support the United Nations joint vision for Sierra Leone as an innovative approach to peacebuilding and mobilize financial resources for its implementation; and (d) to enhance the coordination and coherence of international support to Sierra Leone's peace consolidation efforts in line with the joint communiqué and the Agenda for Change and in advance of the forthcoming Consultative Group meeting on Sierra Leone.

44. The Special Session adopted an outcome document (PBC/3/SLE/6), which established the basis for a new and lighter form of engagement with Sierra Leone, and which aligned the Commission's work with the peacebuilding priorities identified in the Agenda for Change, namely good governance and the rule of law, and combating illicit drug trafficking and youth unemployment. The Commission further decided to advocate for greater subregional cooperation, as well as the promotion of gender and human rights, in peacebuilding activities. The Commission agreed to hold six-monthly review meetings to monitor progress in the peacebuilding priorities of the Agenda for Change, focus the attention of the international community on priorities requiring additional action, provide recommendations to all relevant actors on ways to overcome emerging challenges, and mobilize additional support for the Agenda for Change. The first review meeting would take place in December 2009.

D. Guinea-Bissau configuration

45. In the latter part of the first year of its engagement with Guinea-Bissau, the Commission focused on the finalization of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau and supporting the organization of legislative elections. In preparation of the Strategic Framework, the Guinea-Bissau configuration held three informal meetings and one formal meeting. The meetings provided the national and international counterparts an opportunity to contribute to the drafting of the document and ensured the full participation of key stakeholders in the process. On 31 July 2008, the Commission informally adopted the Strategic Framework subject to final review by the Government of Guinea-Bissau.

46. Following the change of Government in Guinea-Bissau in early August, the Chairperson of the Guinea-Bissau configuration visited the country from 10 to 12 September 2008 and met with the key national stakeholders. The fact-finding visit aimed at gaining first-hand experience in connection with the political developments in the country and exploring options for the continued engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission. During the Chairperson's interaction in Guinea-Bissau, all national stakeholders reiterated their commitment to the peacebuilding process in the country and considered the adoption of the Strategic Framework a priority. The Commission had agreed on the conclusions and recommendations of the Peacebuilding Commission on the situation in Guinea-Bissau (PBC/3/GNB/1).

47. On 1 October 2008, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Government of Guinea-Bissau formally adopted the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau (PBC/3/GNB/3). The Minister of Defence, Marciano Barbeiro, speaking on behalf of the Government by video link from Guinea-Bissau, stated that the Government and people of Guinea-Bissau were ready to assume responsibility for the implementation of the Strategic Framework. As agreed within the Framework, the cooperation of Guinea-Bissau with the Commission was based on national ownership, mutual accountability and inclusiveness. All stakeholders highlighted the importance of timely and effective implementation of the Framework, and stressed the significance of the legislative elections scheduled for 16 November 2008 for the consolidation of peace in Guinea-Bissau.

48. Following the adoption of the Strategic Framework, the work and engagement of the Commission focused on supporting the organization of the elections. Those

efforts resulted in securing funding for the elections in due time. As part of the advocacy role of the Commission, on 21 November 2008, the Guinea-Bissau configuration and the Sierra Leone configuration organized a high-level briefing by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Antonio Maria Costa, on the theme "Drug trafficking as a security threat in West Africa".

49. On 26 November 2008, following an armed attack against the residence of President João Bernardo Vieira shortly after the announcement of the results of the legislative elections, the Guinea-Bissau configuration condemned the use of violence and adopted the conclusions and recommendations of the Peacebuilding Commission on the current situation in Guinea-Bissau (PBC/3/GNB/4). While welcoming the successful organization of the elections on 16 November and the high level of participation of Bissau-Guineans, the Commission expressed its concern over the incident, stressing the need to ensure full respect for the results of the elections and the rule of law.

50. On 4 March 2009, following the assassinations of President João Bernardo Vieira and Chief of General Staff Tagme Na Waie, the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration issued a statement (PBC/3/GNB/5), joining the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council in condemning the assassinations and expressing her concern over the incidents. In the statement, the Chair reiterated the Peacebuilding Commission's continued support for peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau, underlining the importance for all stakeholders to maintain their commitments to the peace consolidation process.

51. In addition to advocacy and resource mobilization, the Guinea-Bissau configuration focused on security sector reform. On 25 March 2009, the Guinea-Bissau configuration held an informal meeting, connecting with the Government of Guinea-Bissau via video link. The Government was represented by the Minister of Defence, Artur Silva, who gave a presentation of the current political situation and developments in the security sector. On 15 April 2009, the configuration convened an informal meeting on security sector reform in order to highlight ongoing initiatives and review gaps and areas for coordination and collaboration among the various actors, as part of the preparation for a conference on security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau to be held in Praia, Cape Verde.

52. From 16 to 18 April 2009, the Chairperson of the Guinea-Bissau configuration visited the country for the first time since the swearing in of the new Government and met with interim President Raimundo Pereira, the members of the Government, the Chief of General Staff and the National Steering Committee for Peacebuilding. On 20 April 2009, the Chair represented the Peacebuilding Commission at the round table on the restructuring and modernization of the defence and security sector in Guinea-Bissau, organized in Praia. The round table identified key constraints, and short-term actions in the security sector reform process in Guinea-Bissau. On 11 May 2009, the Chairperson presented her findings from that visit in an informal meeting of the Guinea-Bissau configuration. The meeting was also apprised of the recommendations of the Integrated Task Force Technical Assessment Mission that visited Guinea-Bissau from 21 to 30 April 2009, and was briefed by IMF and the World Bank on their engagement with the country.

53. On 16 June 2009, shortly following the assassinations of Baciro Dabó, former Minister and a candidate in the presidential elections, and Helder Proença, former Minister and Member of Parliament, the Guinea-Bissau configuration issued a

statement (PBC/3/GNB/6) strongly condemning the killings and reiterating the continued support of the members of the configuration towards the consolidation of peace in the country. On 22 June 2009, the configuration convened an informal meeting to hear a briefing from the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, on his recent visit to Guinea-Bissau. The meeting also was briefed by the Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau, Joseph Mutaboba, on the political developments in the country. Based on those discussions, the Chairperson briefed the Security Council on the way forward and the areas in which the Commission could provide possible support to Guinea-Bissau in close consultation with national and international partners, such as national reconciliation, security sector reform, youth employment and the fight against illicit drug trafficking.

E. Central African Republic configuration

54. Upon the initiative of the President of the Republic, and in a letter dated 6 March 2008, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Francophonie of the Central African Republic requested the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission to place the Central African Republic on its agenda. The letter was forwarded to the Security Council on 10 April 2008.

55. On 30 May 2008, the President of the Security Council addressed the Chairperson of the Commission, requesting that the Central African Republic be placed on the Commission agenda and provide advice and recommendations to the Security Council on the situation in the country in the following areas: (a) establishment and conduct of an inclusive political dialogue; (b) action by the national authorities and support from the international community to develop an effective, accountable and sustainable national security sector system; and (c) restoration of the rule of law, including respect for human rights, and good governance in all regions of the country. On 12 June 2008, the Organizational Committee decided to place the Central African Republic on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission. The Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations, Ambassador Jan Grauls, was elected as Chair of the Commission's Central African Republic configuration.

56. In July 2008, the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration conducted an exploratory mission to Bangui, with a view to establishing initial contacts with national authorities and other relevant stakeholders on the ground, including the international community, civil society, the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic and the United Nations country team.

57. On 8 October 2008, the Central African Republic configuration held its second formal meeting, at which the Minister of State for Planning, the Economy and International Cooperation of the Central African Republic, Sylvain Maliko, addressed the Commission and laid out his country's priorities for peacebuilding as follows: (a) reform of the security sector, including disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; (b) good governance and the rule of law; and (c) socio-economic advancement through implementation of development hubs. Those priorities were later endorsed by the Commission as the country's priorities for peacebuilding. The Commission identified the successful conclusion of the inclusive political dialogue

(which took place later, in December 2008 in Bangui) and the implementation of its recommendations as a cross-cutting priority. The Commission agreed that progress in all three priorities, in the context of achievements in the implementation of the conclusions of the inclusive political dialogue, was paramount for peace consolidation in the country.

58. From 30 October to 6 November 2008, a delegation representing the Peacebuilding Commission and led by the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration undertook a field visit to the country. The delegation met with Government representatives at all levels and political parties of the majority and of the democratic opposition; civil society, including the private sector; the diplomatic community; and the United Nations country team. The delegation also travelled to Paoua, Guinea-Bissau, a city that exemplified some of the key peacebuilding challenges facing the country.

59. From 22 January to 5 February 2009, a delegation from the Peacebuilding Support Office visited the country to facilitate inclusive consultations among all national and international stakeholders in preparation for the development of the country's strategy document. On 6 May 2009, following the successful completion of the consultative process, including a number of informal consultations of the Central African Republic configuration in New York, the Peacebuilding Commission adopted the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic (PBC/3/CAF/7).

60. Following the formal adoption of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic, the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration undertook a mission to Bangui to present the Strategic Framework document to all national stakeholders, including Government officials, members of Parliament, the international community, civil society, representatives of the United Nations system and the press, with a view to further strengthening national ownership of the strategy and officially begin its implementation.

61. The Chair of the Central African Republic configuration also directed his effort at: (a) increasing and sustaining the attention of the international community to the situation in the Central African Republic; (b) mobilizing resources for the implementation of the country's Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding; and (c) supporting the coordination among stakeholders. Over the reporting period, the Chair also focused his efforts on sensitization and resource mobilization and, therefore, paid a number of visits to the European Commission and the Belgium Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation in Brussels, the World Bank and the Department of State in Washington, D.C., the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie in Paris, and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and several international non-governmental organizations in Rome. Particular attention was given to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, including through resource mobilization efforts, awareness-raising activities and participation in various coordination mechanisms on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

62. The Central African Republic also benefited from two allocations from the Peacebuilding Fund. The first allocation was made under the Fund's emergency window to support the inclusive political dialogue. A second allocation of $10 million was made through the Fund's second window, out of which $4 million was made available to launch the country's disarmament, demobilization and

reintegration programme. The Central African Monetary and Economic Community had pledged $16 million for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, of which the Government had received $10 million.

F. Working Group on Lessons Learned

63. During the reporting period, the Working Group on Lessons Learned continued to provide an informal platform for the Peacebuilding Commission to draw on the expertise of practitioners from within and outside the United Nations system, as well as from countries with certain experience in post-conflict peacebuilding, on critical peacebuilding priorities in the countries on the Commission agenda. The Working Group also continued to be guided by the specific recommendations made by Member States during its special session of 12 June 2008, in particular by strengthening the links with the work of the Commission configurations, the United Nations system and the larger peacebuilding community.

64. During the third session of the Commission, the Working Group held five meetings between 20 October 2008 and 28 May 2009, on lessons and good practices associated with: (a) the role of the United Nations in rule of law assistance; (b) regional approaches to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the Great Lakes region of Africa; (c) the development of national capacity after conflict; (d) the coordination of the Peacebuilding Commission with regional and subregional organizations; and (e) sustainable community-based reintegration in post-conflict situations.

65. The Chair of the Working Group focused her summaries of those meetings on the key lessons shared by the experts on the respective issues and the possible linkages with the work of the country configurations. The summaries were widely disseminated to the United Nations peacebuilding community, including through the Commission website, the Peacebuilding Community of Practice and the Peacebuilding Initiative of the Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research. Future summaries would also include more direct recommendations with even greater relevance to country-specific configurations.

III. Peacebuilding Fund

66. To date, all four countries on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission had received funding totalling $86 million, or 62 per cent of the allocated funds. The country configurations played increasingly important roles in providing strategic advice and guidance on priority-setting for overall peacebuilding funding and on the application of the Fund. An additional five countries had been declared eligible for the Peacebuilding Fund country programme (Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Nepal) and received a total of $45 million. In response to imminent threats to the peace process, additional funding for emergency projects, in the total amount of $8.4 million, was approved for projects in seven countries, namely Burundi, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Haiti, Liberia and Kenya. Most recently, the Secretary-General had declared the Democratic Republic of the Congo eligible for funding. The Peacebuilding Fund also collaborated with 15 in-country United Nations recipient organizations that managed the projects with the support of local implementing partners.

67. In addition to its regular briefings to the Fund donors, the Peacebuilding Support Office provided quarterly briefings to the Organizational Committee on global and country-specific activities and operations of the Fund during the respective briefing periods.

68. On the basis of operational experience and growing recognition of the potential of the Peacebuilding Fund in providing support for the peacebuilding process, there was room to further enhance the effectiveness and the catalytic impact of the Fund. To that end and on the basis of the earlier intention of the Secretary-General, the Peacebuilding Support Office, as fund manager, had commissioned an independent evaluation of the Fund undertaken by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) in 2008. The OIOS evaluation concluded that the Fund had potential to fill a unique peacebuilding niche in the post-conflict arena. The evaluation also identified a series of management and operational challenges that required the attention of the Peacebuilding Support Office to ensure full implementation of the Fund's mandate.

69. In December 2008, in compliance with the terms of reference of the Peacebuilding Fund (A/60/984, annex), the Peacebuilding Support Office initiated a consultative process leading to the revision of the terms of reference of the Fund. The revised terms of reference, which were guided by the experience of the Fund in the four countries on the Commission's agenda, emphasized key principles for the Fund's operations, namely transparency, flexibility, operational speed, accountability, catalytic effect, effectiveness, needs-based allocation and national ownership.

70. On 17 June 2009, the General Assembly adopted resolution 63/282, in which it noted that the broad objectives of the revision of the terms of reference for the Peacebuilding Fund were to enhance the capacity of the Fund to serve as a flexible, responsive and focused resource for peacebuilding support and to enhance and maximize the synergy between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Fund. The resolution also affirmed the respective roles of the General Assembly, the Commission and the independent Advisory Group to provide policy guidance on the use of the Fund to maximize its impact and improve its functioning. In order to operationalize the revised terms of reference, guidelines were being prepared by the Peacebuilding Support Office in close collaboration with an inter-agency task force.

71. It was expected that once operationalized, the revised terms of reference would allow the Fund to improve its efficiency, responsiveness and effectiveness in order to ensure that post-conflict countries benefited from the sustained attention and support of the international community.

IV. Observations and the way forward

72. The Commission has gained valuable experience through its engagement with the countries on its agenda. That experience will continue to inform the future work of the Commission, its interpretation of its advisory role and the implementation of its mandates in the countries on its agenda. The Commission's continuous engagement, through the Organizational Committee and its other configurations, with a wide range of partners, both within and beyond the United Nations system, has helped in maximizing the Commission's outreach and has fostered a greater understanding of the work of the Commission among its partners. Those

partnerships would add to the Commission's repertoire of knowledge and expertise, which would further facilitate the discharge of its mandate.

A. Coordination, coherence and partnerships

73. The United Nations is a key actor, but not the only one, engaged in post conflict peacebuilding. The United Nations has political legitimacy and the capacity to convene others, but it should strengthen coordination and cohesion with the multiple regional and international actors involved in peacebuilding. The Commission recognizes that planning and coordination is first and foremost a Government responsibility and requires the development of national capacities, with sustained support from regional and international actors. The Commission has continued to promote and support the need for effective coordination and coherence in order to maximize the impact of all peacebuilding efforts and help channel resources to critical peacebuilding priorities and to support related national capacities. The Commission has also continued to work towards building and strengthening partnerships, at the headquarters and country levels within the United Nations system, and with bilateral and multilateral partners, including donors, international financial institutions and regional and subregional organizations. The Commission will also encourage closer cooperation with complementary regional processes, including the African peer review of the New Partnership for Africa's Development mechanism. There has been progress in coordinating support to countries on the Commission agenda, and strengthened links with the World Bank are encouraging. However, additional efforts are still required to ensure that such links translate into effective collaboration, particularly at the country level.

74. In considering its experience, the Commission has noted that the existence of a single national peacebuilding strategy, which has been developed through a consultative process among all relevant partners at the country level, significantly helps facilitate coordination efforts. This is fully consistent with the Commission commitment to the core principles of national ownership, mutual accountability and sustained partnership. The Commission appreciates that the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/63/881-S/2009/304) has underlined these principles. The Commission will encourage further progress in aligning international support behind the common strategic and integrated framework for peacebuilding. National, regional and international partners need to be fully engaged in the development, monitoring and implementation of the common strategic framework for peacebuilding at the country level if a country is to have access to and make the most efficient use of the support it needs for peacebuilding.

75. The Commission will continue to work in close collaboration with the international financial institutions in order to ensure that the work of the United Nations system and the international financial institutions is undertaken within a shared strategic approach in countries on the Commission agenda, particularly in the areas of strengthening the functions of the State and the promotion of economic recovery. It will also continue to explore ways for creating greater synergy between its work and that of the various regional and international organizations involved in post conflict peacebuilding efforts.

B. Evolving engagement with countries on the agenda

76. Drawing on the lessons learned from its first three years, the Commission has recognized that its value added will be further enhanced through focused and demand-driven engagement with national actors, which would lead to sustained attention to the critical peacebuilding priorities and the promotion of an integrated approach to peacebuilding in the various phases of the post-conflict response of the United Nations.

77. The Commission has started discussions on how it can build on or make use of existing in-country assessments, strategy-setting processes and plans in countries on its agenda in order to ensure that peacebuilding priorities receive focused attention and support without generating high transaction costs for the national partners. In that regard, the Commission will continue to advocate for early and inclusive national-level engagement in post-conflict needs assessment.

78. The Commission has also begun to explore the possibility of diversifying the forms of its engagement with countries on its agenda, including through a possible multitiered approach. In that regard, advice could be provided on specific peacebuilding priorities on the basis of lessons drawn from the experience of other countries, and by mobilizing the contribution of experts, practitioners and national stakeholders who are engaged in peacebuilding efforts. The Commission will also continue to explore ways to simplify processes and streamline planning, monitoring and reporting tools, while maintaining their robustness. The Commission will also continue to work towards forging closer links between headquarters and the country concerned in taking forward key priorities.

C. Resource mobilization

79. The Commission recognizes that rapid and flexible funding, aligned to an agreed and prioritized strategy, is critical for successful peacebuilding. The Commission remains convinced that funding for peacebuilding should be viewed as an early investment in sustainable peace and development and, therefore, may require greater risk-taking than normal development funding.

80. The Commission has continued to address the challenges associated with the mobilization of predictable and sustained resources in order to address funding gaps for critical peacebuilding priorities in countries on its agenda, including through advocacy at headquarters and in capitals. At the same time, the Commission is exploring ways of engaging non-traditional partners, the diaspora, private foundations and the private sector in order to supplement the flow of official development assistance (ODA), and in particular to foster employment creation and economic recovery and growth. The Commission will continue to work towards broadening the base of countries willing to contribute financial and technical resources to countries on its agenda. In that regard, the Commission recognizes the need to encourage trilateral and South-South cooperation in critical peacebuilding areas identified by the countries concerned.

81. While the Peacebuilding Fund may provide only a limited share of the required financial resources for peacebuilding, it can play a critical role by becoming faster and more flexible and accepting a degree of risk. Therefore, the Commission will continue to support targeted Peacebuilding Fund disbursements of a catalytic nature

for key peacebuilding priorities identified by the countries on its agenda. In that regard, the Commission will continue to utilize the evolving capacity of the Peacebuilding Support Office to identify critical resource gaps for peacebuilding and will encourage the United Nations and the international financial institutions to develop coordinated measures to build national capacities for aid management and coordination as an integral element of a peacebuilding strategy.

D. Communications, outreach and greater visibility

82. The Commission notes the limited awareness about and some lack of understanding of its role, the evolving concept of peacebuilding and how the international community can best support peacebuilding, especially in the countries on its agenda. Even where there is some understanding about the role of the Commission, there is little awareness and much confusion about its role and links with the Peacebuilding Fund. This lack of understanding pertains equally to the capitals of its own members, the country-level actors and the populations in the countries concerned. This needs to be addressed if there is to be sustained and increased support for peacebuilding.

83. The Commission has recognized the need to further develop and adapt its outreach and advocacy activities through a number of communications means. This could include field visits (ideally coinciding with the biannual reviews), which could be used to promote the engagement of all stakeholders and for raising awareness of, and mobilizing support for, the peacebuilding process in the countries on its agenda. Moreover, the Commission has decided to explore outreach initiatives, such as the appointment of goodwill ambassadors, the establishment of a group of friends for peacebuilding and the convening of an annual high-level peacebuilding forum. The Commission would also encourage targeted outreach activities by its Chairs, members and the senior-most United Nations representatives in the field in support of the critical peacebuilding priorities.

84. The Commission will develop a targeted communications strategy that is flexible and adaptable in order to address the various actors and partners, such as national stakeholders, bilateral and institutional donors, regional actors and practitioners. This strategy, which should complement existing country-specific strategies, should also aim to build a strategic partnership with international and national media, encouraging them to take a focused approach to peacebuilding, thus helping to increase public understanding of both the challenges and successes of peacebuilding.

V. Conclusions

85. During the past three years, the Commission has consolidated its core advisory role and demonstrated increasing support for the countries on its agenda.

86. The Commission played an important advisory role in the development of the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/63/881-S/2009/304) and will continue to pursue the agenda outlined therein. The Commission welcomes the report and will support the implementation of its recommendations on strengthening the United Nations leadership in, and

coherent and integrated response to post-conflict situations, enhancing financing for peacebuilding and building national capacities. The Commission will also consider engaging in the envisaged review to be undertaken to analyse how the United Nations and the international community can help to broaden and deepen the pool of civilian experts and volunteers for peacebuilding, giving particular attention to mobilizing more capacities from developing countries, especially women.

87. The envisaged review in 2010 of the founding resolutions of the Commission will provide a prime opportunity to further build on the experience it has gained and further enhance its support to countries emerging from conflict.

88. In this context, the role of the Organizational Committee needs to be reassessed, given the need for overall strategic vision and guidance for the work of the Commission.

Annex I

Membership of the Organizational Committee and its Burundi, Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone configurations

Organizational Committee

1 January 2009-31 December 2010[a]

Algeria
Bangladesh
Benin
Burkina Faso
Canada
Chile
China
El Salvador
France
Georgia
Germany
Guinea-Bissau
India
Jamaica
Japan
Luxembourg
Mexico
Morocco
Nepal
Netherlands
Nigeria
Pakistan
Poland
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
South Africa
Sweden
Thailand
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uruguay

Additional members of the Burundi configuration (in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005))

Belgium
Burundi
Croatia
Democratic Republic of the Congo

[a] Some terms of membership will expire prior to 31 December 2010 subject to the duration of membership or in accordance with special arrangements previously agreed upon by the organs/groups from which membership is drawn.

Denmark

Egypt

Kenya

Norway

Rwanda

Switzerland (Chair of the configuration)[b]

Uganda

United Republic of Tanzania

African Development Bank

African Union

East African Economic Community

Economic Commission for Africa

Economic Community of Central African States

Executive Representative of the Secretary-General

Inter-Parliamentary Union

Organisation internationale de la Francophonie

International Conference on the Great Lakes Region

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region

Additional members of the Central African Republic configuration (in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005))

Angola

Belgium (Chair of the configuration)

Cameroon

Central African Republic

Chad

Congo

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Gabon

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Special Representative of the Secretary-General

United Nations Development Programme

[b] Beginning on 1 July 2009 and following the resignation of the Permanent Representative of Sweden.

African Development Bank

African Union

Communauté économique et monétaire de l'Afrique centrale

Economic Community of Central African States

Economic Commission for Africa

Organisation internationale de la Francophonie

Additional members of the Guinea-Bissau configuration (in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005))

Angola

Brazil (Chair of the configuration)

Cape Verde

Gambia

Ghana

Guinea

Guinea-Bissau

Italy

Mozambique

Niger

Portugal

Sao Tome and Principe

Senegal

Spain

Timor-Leste

African Development Bank

African Union

Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

Economic Community of West African States

Organisation internationale de la Francophonie

Representative of the Secretary-General

Union économique et monétaire ouest africaine

United Nations Development Programme

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Additional members of the Sierra Leone configuration (in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005))[c]

Austria

Brazil

Egypt

Ghana

Guinea

Ireland

Italy

Liberia

Portugal

Sierra Leone

African Development Bank

African Union

Central Bank of West African States

Commonwealth

Economic Commission for Africa

Economic Community of West African States

Executive Representative of the Secretary-General

International Organization for Migration

Mano River Union

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Participants in all meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission (in accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005))

International Monetary Fund

World Bank

European Community

Organization of the Islamic Conference

[c] The Permanent Representative of Canada is chairing the configuration, beginning on 25 February 2009, and following the resignation of the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands.

Annex II

Chronology of the work of the Organizational Committee

Formal meetings

2008

23 June

Election of the Chairperson and other officers

2009

7 January

Employment and income-generation and private sector development in post-conflict countries; election of the Chairperson and other officers

25 February

Election of officers

29 June

Election of officers

Informal meetings

2008

15 September

Programme of work and way forward; quarterly briefing on the Peacebuilding Fund operations

29 October

Enhancing cooperation with UNDP

19 November

Employment/income generation and private sector development in post-conflict countries: case studies and their core elements; briefing on the preparation for the review of the terms of reference of the Peacebuilding Fund; briefing on the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on post-conflict peacebuilding and early recovery

17 December

Preparation for the review of the terms of reference of the Peacebuilding Fund; preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on post-conflict peacebuilding and early recovery; quarterly briefing on Peacebuilding Fund operations

2009

25 February

Follow-up to the Peacebuilding Commission retreat of 6 and 7 February 2009; update on the preparations for the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict

18 March

Implications of the global financial crisis for countries emerging from conflict; capacity of the Peacebuilding Commission to fulfil its resource mobilization mandate

29 April

Briefing by the Director of the Rule of Law Unit on United Nations rule of law assistance and coordination strategy in Peacebuilding Commission countries; initiatives aimed at enhancing the visibility of the Peacebuilding Commission and resource mobilization efforts; annual reporting cycle of the Peacebuilding Commission; quarterly briefing on operations of the Peacebuilding Fund

27 May

Update by the Peacebuilding Support Office on the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict

29 June

Election of the Permanent Representative of Switzerland as the new Chair of the Burundi configuration

Annex III

Chronology of the work of the Burundi configuration

Informal meetings

2008

12 December

Discussions on the developments in the peace process with the participation of Charles Nqakula, Facilitator of the Burundi peace process. The conclusions of the Burundi configuration (PBC/3/BDI/1) called for urgent international support for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and recommended that the Government develop a longer-term strategy for the sustainable socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants and internally displaced persons

2009

4 February

Second biannual review of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi

19 March

Update on the latest developments in Burundi; key priorities for the next three months; follow-up to the biannual review of the Strategic Framework

15 April

Update on the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process in Burundi; preparation of the thematic meeting on elections; update on the Partners Coordination Group

20 May

Preparations for the visit of the Chair to Burundi (26-28 May 2009); thematic meeting on elections

18 June

Briefing on the visit of the Chair to Burundi of 26-28 May 2009; preparations for the third biannual review of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi

Annex IV

Chronology of the work of the Central African Republic configuration

Formal meetings[a]

2008

2 July

Brief on the Chair's upcoming exploratory mission and discussion on the calendar of work

8 October

Presentation by the Government of the Central African Republic on challenges and priorities for peacebuilding in the country

2009

6 May

Formal adoption of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic (PBC/3/CAF/7)

Informal meetings

2008

10 September

Briefing by the Chairperson on his exploratory mission to Bangui; presentation by the Peacebuilding Support Office of a background paper on the situation in the Central African Republic

22 October

Thematic discussion on (a) security sector reform; and (b) good governance and the rule of law; discussion on the preparations for the upcoming field visit to the Central African Republic

10 December

Discussion on the report of the mission of the Peacebuilding Commission to the Central African Republic; thematic discussion on the establishment of development hubs

[a] The agenda and summary record of formal meetings are available on the website of the Commission (www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding).

2009

7 January

Presentation and discussion of the Peacebuilding Support Office document on mapping of resources and gaps; discussion on the draft outline of the strategic framework for peacebuilding in the Central African Republic

18 February

Presentation of the country's draft strategic framework for peacebuilding by a representative of the Government of the Central African Republic.

11 March

Discussion with outgoing Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic, François Lonseny Fall

23 March

Informal adoption of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic

17 June

Briefing by the Chairperson on his mission to the Central African Republic; discussion with the incoming Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the Central African Republic, Sahle-Work Zewde

Annex V

Chronology of the work of the Guinea-Bissau configuration

Formal meetings

2008

1 October

Adoption of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau

Informal meetings

2008

30 June

Thematic discussion of the issue of energy in Guinea-Bissau

3 September

Update on the political situation in Guinea-Bissau; discussion on the finalization of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau

17 September

Briefing on the Chair's visit to Guinea-Bissau

21 November

High-level briefing on drug trafficking as a security threat in West Africa, by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

2009

25 March

Discussion on recent political developments in the country; preparations for the presidential elections; developments in security sector reform

9 April

A briefing from the Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau

15 April

Discussion on security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau

11 May

Briefing on the Chair's visit to Guinea-Bissau and her participation in the Praia conference on security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau

22 June

Briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs on his visit to the country; briefing by the Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau

Annex VI

Chronology of the work of the Sierra Leone configuration

Formal meetings

2008

15 December

Biannual review of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework

2009

10 June

High-level Special Session on Sierra Leone

Informal meetings

2008

21 November

High-level briefing on drug trafficking as a security threat in West Africa by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

2009

29 April

Briefing on the Chair's visit to Sierra Leone

Annex VII

Chronology of the work of the Working Group on Lessons Learned

2008

20 October

The role of the United Nations in rule of law assistance

24 November

Regional approaches to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the Great Lakes region of Africa

15 December

Development of national capacity after conflict

2009

30 March

Collaboration and coordination between the Peacebuilding Commission and regional and subregional organizations

28 May

Sustainable community-based reintegration in post-conflict situations

United Nations S/2009/445

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 September 2009

Original: English

Letter dated 3 September 2009 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter of 9 June 2009, I have the honour to hereby inform the Security Council of the findings and recommendations of the electoral needs assessment mission sent to the Republic of Burundi following the request for electoral assistance from President Pierre Nkurunziza for the elections to be held in 2010.

Following consultations with a wide range of national and international stakeholders, the needs assessment mission determined that the existing conditions are globally propitious for the holding of credible elections. One of the main indicators is that the members of the National Independent Electoral Commission enjoy the trust of the Government and the leaders of all political parties and civil society, and that they are perceived by all as impartial and independent.

Nevertheless, the operational needs of the National Independent Electoral Commission led the needs assessment mission to recommend the setting up of a United Nations electoral support programme through which it would benefit from technical expertise in the planning and implementation of various electoral operations. The above programme will be managed by the United Nations Development Programme Office in Burundi, in close coordination with the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs, and funded through a multi-donor trust fund.

The needs assessment mission also recommended that, in the light of the logistical needs of the National Independent Electoral Commission, a tight electoral timeline and the scope of the tasks ahead, the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) be prepared to provide, if required, specific logistical support to the Commission at crucial phases of the electoral process, such as the transportation of polling materials in remote areas. Accordingly, the needs assessment mission recommended that the current transportation and air assets of BINUB be strengthened to allow the mission to provide such support.

In the exercise of his mandate, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1858 (2008), to facilitate and promote dialogue among national and international stakeholders, in particular in the context of the upcoming elections, my Executive Representative has set up two mechanisms to coordinate the strategic, technical and financial support of international partners to the National Independent Electoral Commission.

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I support the initiatives already undertaken by my Executive Representative on the ground and the recommendations of the needs assessment mission, and believe that the timely provision of the required technical and logistical assistance to the National Independent Electoral Commission could greatly contribute to the quality of the 2010 elections.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon